

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1979

Volume CIII, Number 11

"The Church . . . Is Alive"

APR. 17 1979

Turlingtons Re-Enter Iran And Plan Worship Services

TEHRAN, Iran (BP) — The Henry E. Turlingtons have returned to Iran and will begin church services immediately. The last Southern Baptist missionaries to leave the troubled country during the change of government, the Turlingtons plan to stay from six to eight weeks before returning to Bangalore, India, where he will lecture at

the United Theological College from June through September.

Turlington told SBC Foreign Mission Board officials April 5 from his Iran apartment that all his family's personal effects were in good order. He had already been in contact with three families and a single woman about church services.

All of the American members of the

church have left Tehran, but several families of other nationalities are still present. Among them are Mexicans, Nigerians, and Pakistanis.

When the Turlingtons, from Florida and Virginia, leave for the Bangalore lecture assignment, they intend to leave their personal belongings in their apartment in Tehran and return at the end of September.

"It is most encouraging to know that the church in Tehran is still alive," said J. D. Hughey, the board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia.

James F. Kirkendall, field representative for South Asia, also returned to Tehran. He is packing furniture and belongings in crates for shipment at a later time. He will attend meetings in his area during the next month and will return to the United States in May. A final decision will be made then about where he and his family will live.

Mrs. Kirkendall, from Oklahoma, is already in the United States. She left Tehran with her son during the fighting earlier this year.

No word has been received about the C. Kenneth Glenn home in Ahwaz, Iran, but the Turlingtons did report conditions there now were "not so bad." The Glenns, from Georgia and South Carolina, were among the first missionaries forced to evacuate because fighting became intense much quicker in the remote areas such as Ahwaz. They are currently on a short term assignment in Norway with an English-language congregation.

Two other Southern Baptist mission personnel were in the country when the fighting began. Journeyman Michael Joe Sowder, from Texas, and volunteer Hubert E. Williams, from Arkansas, do not plan to return to Iran. Sowder is in Scotland.

Trouble in Iran between pro-shah and anti-shah forces had been apparent for many months. Armed conflict broke out in scattered areas and increased until the shah left the country and most of Iran was in turmoil. Americans were evacuated in February. Recent elections have affirmed the people's desire for rule by the anti-shah forces.

Statistics Tell

One Fourth Of SBC Churches Baptized One Or Less In 1978

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — While 14 Southern Baptist churches baptized 300 or more persons in 1978, another 8,999—or 25.7 percent of the reporting churches—baptized one or less.

Meanwhile, 15,237 churches (43.5 percent) baptized 2 to 9 and 9,973 (28.5 percent) baptized 10 to 49 and 613 (1.8 percent) baptized 50 to 99.

Southern Baptist churches baptized 336,050 persons last year. That figure represents a drop of 9,640 under 1977's baptisms, which, in turn, was 38,806 lower than 1976 figures. Statistics are based on 34,989 reporting churches out of 35,404.

The 25.7 percent with one or less baptisms is made up of 6,191 churches (3,188 with 100 or more members), which baptized none, and 2,808 (2,046 with 100 or more members), which baptized only one.

On the upper end of the baptism spectrum, only 167 churches (less than one half of one percent) baptized 100 or more, according to statistics on the SBC's Uniform Church Letter, but statistics also show that 21,525 (61.5 percent) have 299 or fewer members.

Statistics also reveal that 66 churches out of 183 with 3,000 or more members had 100 or more baptisms in 1978.

In Mississippi

March CP Income Drops; First Quarter 13% Ahead

Cooperative Program gifts of \$793,143 for March from the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention brought the total for the first quarter of 1979 to \$2,579,591, according to Earl executive secretary-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This is \$79,591 over the budget figure of \$2.5 million for the three months period. The annual budget for 1979 is \$10 million.

The first quarter's income of \$2,579,591 was a 13 per cent increase for the same period of last year, when the gifts amounted to \$2,281,915. This accounts for an increase of \$297,676. The first quarter's gifts were 25.8 per cent of the total budget figure.

The March 1979 figure of \$793,143 was a 3 per cent drop as compared with the same month of 1978. Last year the total for the same month was \$817,817, which at that time was a record figure for any one month.

The Cooperative Program is the voluntary unified system of giving among Southern Baptist churches for the purpose of supporting their missions efforts around world and their programs of missions education and support.

Kelly said, "Being able to conclude the first quarter of the year on the plus side of a \$10 million annual budget is highly encouraging. Witnessing to the entire world by the end of this century is going to take sacrifices in the giving of both time and money. This is an indication that Mississippi Baptists are determined to be counted among those who are helping to make such a world-wide witnessing effort a reality."

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Is there anything incongruous in believing that the One who brought back out of a festering grave the rotting body of Lazarus should be able to come out of the grave Himself? If He brought others out of the tomb, He surely knew the way out. . . .

And He who Himself rose from the dead . . . can also raise us, even as He has promised.

We know more gloriously than ever . . . with a surer certainty . . . and a deeper joy . . . that Jesus meant it when He said, time after time, "I will raise him up at the last day."

Here is Someone who knows what He is talking about. Here is One speaking with authority. He has done it for others already . . . He did it for Himself . . . He has done it . . . He can do it again.

Because He rose, we who believe in Him shall rise also.

There lies before us the thrilling, exciting prospect of life without end, going on and on, into all the eternities . . . a life of joy and peace . . . of freedom from sin and bondage of all kinds . . . release from pain and suffering . . . from tears, sorrow and heartache . . . from disappointment and all bitterness.

Because He rose from the dead, we need have no fear about our tomorrows—whatever they may hold. "Be not afraid," He said, "only believe." "He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

—Peter Marshall.

Houston Parking Nil, Messengers To Shuttle

HOUSTON (BP) — Parking will not exist during daytime sessions when thousands of delegates converge on the Summit in Houston for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 12-14.

Commuter automobiles fill the acres of parking around the Summit during the day. Only after 6 p.m. will those spaces be available for the cars of messengers.

Therefore, a massive transport sys-

tem involving up to 100 buses gathered from around Texas will shuttle messengers between their hotels and meeting places, primarily the Summit. Buses also will be numbered and color-coded for easy identification.

Parking will be available at nearby Rice Stadium which will be a transfer point. Those who drive from their hotel will park at the stadium for one dollar, then catch a shuttle to the Summit for a dollar per person.

Messengers who do not have cars will catch a bus at their hotel for one dollar, ride to Rice Stadium where they will catch a shuttle for another dollar. Some routes will run directly from the hotels to the Summit for two dollars, depending on the location of the hotel. Return trips cost an additional two dollars.

On paper, the shuttle system is "quick, but expensive," Hedquist says. Most of the rides will be only 10 minutes and he says the cost of a taxi from downtown to the Summit approaches six dollars.

Hedquist cautions that Houston prides itself on having the best towing service in the country and officials there don't hesitate to tow unauthorized cars from parking spaces. "There is absolutely no parking at the Summit during the day," he says. "At night, parking is free and there's plenty of it."

SBC Housing 82% Full

HOUSTON (BP) — Elected delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 12-14 have already laid claim to 82 percent of the available rooms, according to convention manager Tim Hedquist.

Hedquist said most remaining rooms are in the larger downtown hotels and will cost about \$50 nightly. There are a few rooms in the \$30-\$40 range remaining.

Hedquist, who gets updated reports weekly from the convention bureau, says he will tell messengers where rooms are available if they call him at 615-244-2355.

In 1979 . . .

State Legislature Passes Moral, Financial Bills

By J. Clark Hensley
Executive Director
Christian Action Commission

Income tax reduction and the removal of the sales tax on prescription drugs and residential water sales were among the tax reduction features passed during the recent Mississippi Legislative session. Some other actions, such as the timely deposit bill, overriding the veto on the Sunset Act of 1978, and the reduction of travel funds, to mention a few, are also designed to help financially.

Some of the other actions are as follows:

Passed ethics legislation designed to prohibit conflict of interest by public officials through the establishment of the State Ethics Commission and by providing for financial disclosure and a procedure by which complaints may be filed against public officials.

Updated and modernized the Youth Court Laws in the state to provide uniformity in the administration of youth courts throughout the state.

Updated laws for the protection of Mississippi's youth by prohibiting the

sexual exploitation of children and the dissemination of sexually oriented material to people under 18.

Passed on open primary law to cut down the amount of time a candidate spends in running for office and to decrease the cost of elections, both to the candidate and to the counties.

Permitted voluntary participation by students in prayer in public schools. Excluded certain raffles from gambling statutes: "Shall not apply to any raffle being held where prize is offered by a non-profit, civic, educational, or religious organization."

Permitted minors to handle alcoholic beverages as bus-boys and such types of service and opened way for minors over 15 to be treated for emotional problems without parental consent.

The 3 percent mark-up on alcoholic beverages for use in rehabilitation was continued for two more years.

In evaluating the accomplishments of a session which handled 2,900 bills and resolutions, one must look at what didn't pass or died in committee. In

(Continued on page 2)

Canadian Baptists Begin Coast To Coast Crusades

TORONTO, Canada (BP) — Canadian Baptists have launched a series of simultaneous evangelistic crusades that will stretch from ocean to ocean during the next year, culminating at

the Baptist World Congress in Toronto, July 8-13, 1980.

The crusades are a joint venture of the Task Force of Evangelism of the Baptist Federation of Canada and the Division of Evangelism and Education of the Baptist World Alliance.

C. Ronald Goulding, evangelism coordinator for BWA, will be the speaker at a series of week-long preparatory rallies in each of five regional centers.

The preparatory work begin with rallies in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, March 18-26, arranged by Roy D. Campbell, director of the evangelism commission of the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces.

Other regional preparatory meetings are slated in western Canada April 4-9; in Ontario and Quebec, April 27-May 7; in Montreal, June 7-11; and at the Baptist Federation of Canada's triennial convention at Regina, Saskatchewan, July 12-16.

Editorial

Messengers Can Pre-Register

The Southern Baptist Convention and the several state conventions can operate efficiently only as messengers from the churches attend the meetings. The conventions are not boards of directors with authority over churches, so the churches can arrive at mutual conclusions for future directions only by having messengers attending the convention sessions.

The Southern Baptist Convention will be June 12 to 14 in Houston, Texas. If they have not already been named by the churches, messengers need to be selected.

The convention constitution says, "The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of missionary Baptist churches co-operating with the Convention as follows:

"1. One messenger from each such

church which is in friendly cooperation with this Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work.

"2. One additional messenger from each such church for every 250 members; or for each \$250.00 paid to the work of the Convention during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

"3. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by the churches to the Convention, but no church may appoint more than ten (10).

"4. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he is appointed."

Pre-registration for the convention

(Continued on Page 2)

Summer Missionaries Are Bound For Mississippi

Resort mission work in Mississippi will get a boost this summer when four college students begin ministries in various parks.

The students are among five appointed as student summer missionaries by the Home Mission Board. They are among about 700 appointed by the HMB for various areas of work.

The fifth student Mary Lou Ann Bors, of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo., will work in the Greenwood area under the supervision of M. C. Johnson, Holmes-Leflore Association's director of missions.

She will do backyard Bible clubs, retreats, operate a fun wagon, and do survey work in rural or small town settings.

The four resort workers will be: Valerie Lynn Woodward of Baylor University. She will be assigned to Danny West, director of missions for Pike Association. She will work in the Percy Quinn State Park.

Carole Susan Farrar of Furman University will be assigned to Richard Pass, director of missions for Franklin association. She will work at Homochitto Creek Campout and Clear Springs Federal Park.

Lloyd Allen Bunch of Gardner-Webb College will be assigned to Arthur Les-

(Continued on page 2)

Baptist Student Leadership Training

Michelle Whitaker with guitar, and Virginia Ochoa with flute, both of Delta State University, practice for a talent show at the spring Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore. The Chester Quarles housing and administration building is in the background. More pictures on page 2.



Baptist Joint Committee Warns Of Constitutional Change Dangers

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Washington-based Baptist group warned that a possible constitutional convention called to force the federal government to balance the budget should "preserve intact the entire Bill of Rights."

Members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, meeting in semiannual session, also adopted guidelines regulating the use of the name of the agency, instructed its staff to seek a site in the District of Columbia or Maryland for its upcoming Religious Liberty Conference, heard progress reports on SALT II and Israel's anti-bribery law, and honored long-time member Porter W. Routh.

The Baptist Joint Committee is composed of official representatives from eight U.S. Baptist bodies and the Baptist Federation of Canada and deals with a variety of public affairs issues which affect the life of the churches and their agencies and institutions.

In expressing its warning on the potential dangers of a constitutional convention, the Baptist Joint Committee expressed its preference for the "traditional method" of amending the Constitution, by which Congress first adopts an amendment and then submits it to state legislatures, three-fourths of which must then ratify it before the amendment is incorporated into the constitution.

The other amendment method provided for in Article V of the Constitution requires Congress to convene a constitutional convention if two-thirds of the state legislatures call for such a parley. Twenty-nine states have thus far called for such a convention to be convened and to adopt an amendment forcing the federal government to balance its budget.

Constitutional scholars are divided on the question of whether such a convention could be forced to limit its agenda to that single matter or whether delegates could choose to

amend the original Constitution at will.

The statement adopted by the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirmed "the historic commitment of Baptists to absolute religious liberty and its constitutional corollary, the separation of church and state."

Committee members heard Thomas A. Halsted, public affairs adviser of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, predict a new SALT agreement with the Soviet Union by spring. He said the proposed treaty limiting the number of strategic nuclear weapons is a necessary first step toward eventual nuclear disarmament.

Halsted compared the current U.S.-USSR arms race to an alcoholic who wants "one more for the road" before getting on the wagon. He also said that SALT II will be the second in a series of SALT agreements with the Soviet Union leading to more wide-scale disarmament. The proposed SALT II agreement includes a commitment to SALT III, Halsted pointed out, declaring that without it, "SALT II would not be worth very much."

Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a

member of the Baptist Joint Committee, reported on his recent visit to Israel, culminating in a "clarification" by the Israeli Knesset of last year's law forbidding "material inducement" to Jews to convert to other faiths.

Allen, who last fall was appointed chairman of a Baptist Joint Committee group to seek a solution to the problem, met with numerous high-ranking Israeli officials in January to discuss Baptist objections to the law. The resulting "clarification," which became an official part of the Knesset debate on the matter, hopefully means that "we've got a dead law," Allen said.

While "we did not win a major victory" by having the law repealed outright, Baptists did send a "major signal" to Israel on the subject of religious liberty, Allen said.

The Baptist Joint Committee honored Routh with a plaque citing his length of service as the longest of any member of the 40-year-old agency. Routh, attending his last meeting before retiring this summer from his post as executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, served on the Baptist Joint Committee for 27 years.

Peter Vins Reported Released From Prison In Soviet Union

LONDON (RNS) — Peter Vins, 23, son of dissident Soviet Baptist leader Georgi Vins, has been released from prison after serving 11 months, according to reports reaching here from "underground" sources.

Vins, an associate member of a Ukrainian group set up to monitor Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Accords,

had been given a one year sentence in a labor camp last April for "parasitism."

The reports of his release said the facts had been confirmed by Peter Vins himself in a telephone call to close friends. (Similar reports were received in New York by the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies.)

Meanwhile, Georgi Vins, who was sentenced in 1974 to five years in a labor camp followed by five years in exile, has returned to prison in Siberia after a brief stay in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison. He was due to complete the first five years of his sentence at the end of March.

Life Study

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — A "Living Investments in Field Evangelism," (LIFE) program, has been introduced at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary to help bolster evangelism support for churches in the west and northwest.

The purpose of the program, according to William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate, is to supply specially-trained student evangelists to churches, which do not have the resources to secure evangelists and musicians for revival meetings and other events.

Legislature

(Continued from Page 1)

dealing with so much potential legislation, obviously much should not have been considered; so we are grateful for the death of a number of bills in a committee.

It was a short session and many citizens will agree with legislators as they congratulated themselves that it was one of the most productive. Between now and the fall election voters will be able to evaluate the record of each representative or senator and then pass their judgment at the voting booth.

Pre-Register

(Continued from Page 1)

helps to shorten registration lines at the convention. To pre-register its messengers a church needs to order registration cards from the state convention office and then get the registration cards in the mail to the Southern Baptist Convention office by May 4.

The cards should be ordered from Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

The properly filled-in cards should be sent to SBC Pre-registration, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219 by May 4. Materials will be mailed from the Southern Baptist Convention office by May 18.

Pre-registration fees are \$2.00 each (or \$6.00 per family maximum) and the Book of Reports is \$2.00 each.

Good-humor is goodness and wisdom combined. — Owen Meredith

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Frankfort, Ky. (RNS) — A Kentucky Circuit Court judge has ruled that a 1978 state law providing for the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms violates neither the state nor federal constitutional provisions for the separation of church and state.

Carson City (RNS) — A bill introduced into the Nevada Assembly would permit love-struck couples to be married without waiting in lines to obtain a marriage license from the county courthouse. The measure would authorize any minister who owns, operates or works at any wedding chapel to issue a marriage license.

Salem, Ore. (RNS) — A former member of the Unification Church collected \$16,732 from it because the Church failed to return his belongings. He is Christopher Rudie, 24, who left the Church in 1976 after being "deprogrammed."

Washington (BP) — In a series of actions, the U. S. Supreme Court declined to become involved in the legal dispute over compulsory retirement laws. Acting in four separate cases, the justices unanimously decided not to settle a growing dispute in lower courts over the constitutionality of state laws requiring public employees to retire at a given age. Last year Congress passed legislation extending mandatory retirement from age 65 to 70 for most American workers. No exceptions were made for churches. The law applies only, however, to employers with 20 or more employees.

Tavoy, Burma — During celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the first convert here, the first woman in the history of the Karen Baptist Convention — T. Rebecca Shee, was ordained. More recently, at Taguzeit, Karens of the Delta marked the 150th anniversary of the Bassein district's first convert with a baptismal service for 600 new believers. "They emerged out of the muddy creek looking like water buffaloes!" said Victor San Lone of the Burma Baptist Convention. Last year more than 6,200 persons were baptized in the Irrawaddy River during the Kachin Baptist Convention's Centennial service. — EBPS

Brighton, England — Registrations for the European Baptist Federation Congress are "flowing in," says Mrs. Barbara Askew, Chairman of the programme committee and chief organizer for the Congress in Brighton June 27-July 1.

Teheran (RNS) — Proclaiming April 1 "the first day of a government of God," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini triumphantly announced "yes" votes of millions of Iranians in a referendum that created "the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Oberellen, DDR — Twelve young persons were baptized in a recent service at Oberellen, where the church has 98 members and a rich history, having observed its 100th anniversary last year. The youth came from Mihla and Eisenach as well as Oberellen. Johannes Meissner is the church's pastor. (EBPS)

Five Fabulous Sundays April 8, 1979

New Sunday School Members

| | |
|---------------|------|
| April 1 Total | 1732 |
| April 8 Total | 1588 |
| Grand Total | 3320 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Adams — 19 | Marion — 38 |
| Alcorn — 1 | Marshall — 21 |
| Attala — 12 | Mississippi — 37 |
| Benton — 11 | Monroe — 24 |
| Bolivar — 20 | Montgomery — 10 |
| Calhoun — 5 | Neshoba — 11 |
| Carroll — 9 | New Choctaw — 5 |
| Chickasaw — 8 | Newton — 31 |
| Choctaw — 19 | Noxubee — 7 |
| Clarke — 30 | Oktibbeha — 2 |
| Clay — 0 | Panola — 15 |
| Copiah — 10 | Pearl River — 47 |
| Covington — 4 | Perry — 10 |
| DeSoto — 71 | Pike — 36 |
| Franklin — 4 | Pontotoc — 18 |
| George — 13 | Prentiss — 6 |
| Greene — 4 | Quitman — 4 |
| Grenada — 5 | Rankin — 50 |
| Gulf Coast — 79 | Riverside — 22 |
| Hinds-Madison — 159 | Scott — 68 |
| Holmes — 7 | Sharkey-Issaquena — 0 |
| Humphreys — 2 | Simpson — 15 |
| Itawamba — 13 | Smith — 47 |
| Jackson — 49 | Sunflower — 6 |
| Jasper — 8 | Tallahatchie — 0 |
| Jeff Davis — 10 | Tate — 11 |
| Jones — 53 | Tippah — 11 |
| Kemper — 1 | Tishomingo — 10 |
| Lafayette — 10 | Union — 4 |
| Lamar — 10 | Union County — 24 |
| Lauderdale — 43 | Walthall — 13 |
| Lawrence — 10 | Warren — 42 |
| Leake — 17 | Washington — 24 |
| Lebanon — 49 | Wayne — 10 |
| Lee — 81 | Webster — 4 |
| Leflore — 10 | Winston — 14 |
| Lincoln — 9 | Yalobusha — 3 |
| Lowndes — 19 | Yazoo — 4 |

Pinelake To Rent Rankin Association Assembly Building

Pinelake Baptist Church at the Ross Barnett Reservoir in Rankin Association has entered into a rental agreement with the association for the use of its assembly building on Sunday mornings.

Due to the growth of the church the auditorium of the church has become inadequate for morning worship services even though there have been two morning services held.

The Rankin Association Assembly Building is located immediately be-

hind the Pinelake property, and a rental agreement has been worked out to be in effect during the planning and construction stages of a new building for Pinelake.

According to the agreement the church will rent the assembly building on Sunday mornings for a single worship service. The church is also financing the paving of a parking lot on the assembly grounds that will be available for assembly use during the week.

The church has been having two worship services on Sunday morning and two Sunday schools. The rental agreement will allow the church to return to one worship service and one Sunday School. Worship services for youth and adults will be held in the assembly building, and children's church for age 4 through grade 6 will be in the educational building.

The church will move to its new schedule on Easter Sunday morning. Lannie Wilbourn is pastor of Pinelake Baptist Church. Mose Dangerfield, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is interim educational director.

Bound For

(Continued from Page 1)

lie, director of missions for Lafayette-Marshall Association. He will work in three federal reserves and one state park.

Roy Dean Oates of Grayson County College (Texas), will be assigned to Sam Turner, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association, and Nathan Barber, pastor of Bay St. Louis Baptist Church. Oates will work at the Bucaneer Campground.



MBREA Officers

These are the officers of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association. Left to right are Harold Fleming, vice president, minister of education at First Baptist Church, McComb; A. V. Windham, president, minister of education at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg; Leon Emery, president elect, director of the church administration-pastoral ministries department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Mary Jo Harrison, secretary, director of outreach at Madison Baptist Church. The association's fall luncheon is Nov. 13 in Jackson and the annual convention will be Feb. 21-23 at Howard Johnson's, Biloxi.

Additions To Revival Listing

Gulf Coast

| Church | Date | Evangelist | Pastor |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Big Ridge, Biloxi | April 15-22 | Arnold Shower | Robert Carlisle |

Washington

| Church | Date | Evangelist | Pastor |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Greenfield, Greenville | April 8-13 | George Aultman | Frank Bishop |

Pearl River

| Church | Date | Evangelist | Pastor |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1st, Poplarville | April 22-25 | Charles Harvey | Robert B. Barnes |
| New Palestine, Picayune | April 22-27 | Estes Mason | Harry L. Barnes |
| Parkview Chapel | April 22-27 | Bill Galloway | |

Simpson

| Church | Date | Evangelist | Pastor |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| Commission Rd. | April 16-22 | Ferrell Morgan | David Lee |

Bethlehem

| Church | Date | Evangelist | Pastor |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Bethlehem | April 18-20 | Caley Ray Nichols | R. G. Stewart |



Jerry Merriman, director-elect of Mississippi student work, explains the inner workings of summer missions to parents of students appointed to serve as summer missionaries. About 60 parents came to the session during the spring conference. Merriman told parents that their sons and daughters would not get rich this summer, but would be enriched in other ways. "They will get a missions education that might be a turning point in their lives," said Merriman. He said he didn't want to scare them, but 40 percent of Foreign Mission Board assigned summer missionaries enter career missions and 50 percent of those assigned by the Home Mission Board enter career service.



Officers for the upcoming year in Mississippi Baptist Student Union to the right of Ralph Winders, director, student work, are: Dianne Pirkle of New Albany, Blue Mountain College, vice president; Tammy Lyon of Crystal Springs, Copiah-Lincoln Jr. College, secretary; Mark Bailey of Lucedale, Carey College, committee member; Cindy Wall of Oxford, University of Mississippi, committee member; Terry McDonald of Lumberton, Pearl River Jr. College, committee member; and James Breland, Delta State University, director-adviser. BSU president Bill Branch of Kenner, La., and a student at Mississippi State University is in inset. He was attending a foreign missions orientation in Richmond, Va., during the conference. Not pictured are Robert Wall of Mississippi College, faculty advisor; and Dennis Johnsey of Summit, pastor advisor.

BSU LTC Draws 382

(Gulfshore's Largest Session)

(Tim Nicholas Photos)



The Singing Cabezas of the University of Southern Mississippi practice for the talent show during the BSU Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore. Left to right are Melodie Burns (director), Vic Flowers, Vivian Lee, Donny Floyd, Dana Hathorne, and Rod Herrington.



Stoney Shaw, BSU director in Birmingham, Ala., leads a special interest conference on managing time. Shaw also closed out the conference with the final address. Shaw told students the top three reasons people are on the earth are "to love God, to learn to walk with the Father daily, and to learn how to serve Him daily." Other speakers at the conference included Frank Pollard, Doyle Baird, Bernard Spooner, Jim Keith, and John Stanley.

Vocalists Will Headline National Acteens Program

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Three up-and-coming Christian vocalists headline the program of the third National Acteens Conference to be held July 24-28 in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention.

Singer and composer Andrew Culverwell, along with recording artist Paul Smith and entertainer Kay DeKalb, will perform during sessions of the conference and in special concerts.

Culverwell, a British-born artist who has recorded four gospel albums, is returning for his second appearance at a national Acteens meeting. He was an overwhelming favorite at NAC II, held in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1975.

Directing the congregational singing along with solo performances will be Paul Smith. Smith, who recorded his first album for Word Records while a member of a gospel group will soon have his first solo album released on the Eagle Wing label. The 1976 Baylor University graduate has appeared in major roles in *Carmen*, *Godspell*, and *Bernstein's Mass*. He is a native of Texas.

Kay DeKalb, a Christian entertainer residing in Nashville, will also be a featured performer during the conference. Miss DeKalb has recently performed with the Anita Bryant Singers as well as on her own.

Named "Miss Congeniality" in the 1973 "Miss Alabama" pageant and the 1972 "Miss National Teenager"

pageant, Miss DeKalb attended Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. She is a native of Alabama. Also appearing at the conference will be "Didomi." "Didomi" is a group of eleven Southern Baptist young people who lead in creative worship experiences such as dramatized parables, special musical presentations, and dramatized Biblical illustrations in full costume. The group is directed by Bill Risinger.

Other major program personalities for the four-day event include Marge Caldwell, Chris Elkins, Juliette Mather, Martha Franks, Elizabeth Newby, and Bill O'Brien. There will also be many home and foreign missionaries featured.

Mrs. Caldwell, who writes a series for the Acteens magazine *Accent*, is a homemaker, lecturer, author, and entertainer from Houston, Texas. She will conduct a dialogue segment during each general session.

Speaking on youth and the cults will be Chris Elkins. Elkins, a former member of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, is a special consultant for the Interfaith Witness Department of the Home Mission Board.

Juliette Mather and Martha Franks will conduct a daily Bible study dialogue and theme interpretation. Miss Mather was youth and editorial secretary for Woman's Missionary Union from 1921 to 1954. After her retirement from WMU, she served as a missionary volunteer in Japan and

Hong Kong. Miss Franks retired from a 41-year missionary career in China and Taiwan in 1966.

Elizabeth Newby, author of *A Migrant with Hope*, will share her testimony as the daughter of a migrant worker. Mrs. Newby spoke at the 1978 WMU Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, and has appeared on many television talk shows in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area where she resides.

Bill O'Brien is secretary of the Foreign Mission Board's Department of Denominational Coordination. He is a former missionary to Indonesia and pastor in Texas, his native state. O'Brien will bring the commitment message during the Friday evening session.

A special professional youth ministry conference is being planned along with the conference for Acteens. This conference is being offered to pastors, youth ministers, and other professionals working with youth who come to Kansas City as sponsors for their Acteens group.

There is no pre-registration for NAC III but housing request forms must be in the housing office by July 1. An official Housing Application Form will be printed in the June issue of *Accent*. No telephone requests will be honored. Housing information will be in June *Accent*.



Virgil Fox Will Play In Tupelo

Virgil Fox, organ virtuoso, will appear in concert on April 20 at 8 p.m. at Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo. There will be no admission charge. In the picture above, Fox demonstrates the technique and expressivity at the organ that "turned on" a whole generation to the music of Bach. Last year Fox celebrated his 51st consecutive concert season. He grew up in Illinois, began playing the organ for church services at 10, and gave his first recital before a crowd of 2,500 in Cincinnati when he was 14. He has given concerts in most of the countries of Europe and has played every major organ in the United States; he has played three times at the White House. His HEAVY ORGAN tours and record albums made him a star with the youth of America.

Central Hills Needs Circus Tent, Horses

Central Hills Royal Ambassador camping preparations are well underway, with camping designed for boys in grades 1-12. Many of the churches throughout the state are assisting us in getting the camp ready by June 1.

Presently, the staff is trying to locate a 40' x 60' circus tent to suffice for a dining hall, until the permanent dining hall is completed.

One of the new activities being proposed for camp is horseback riding. For many boys this will be one of the few times that they have had the opportunity to ride and become familiar with horses. This activity will be under the direction of trained personnel.

"To see that this opportunity is made possible, horses are needed. If you have a horse or tent or know of someone who has a horse or tent that he would like to donate to Central Hills, please contact the Department. We are looking for horses that would be suitable for young boys, healthy, and between the ages of 8 to 15." Rusty Griffin, Brotherhood consultant, said.

"Please contact the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or telephone 354-3704."

Fear "Creeps Up The Backs" Of Pastors In Shadow Of Power Plant

By Norman Jameson

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. (BP) — Fear crept up the backs of Southern Baptist pastors who lingered in the shadow of the power plant on Three Mile Island, but they stayed through the nuclear nightmare to help others who refused to leave.

Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh advised all pregnant women and preschool children within five miles of the plant to evacuate. That order decimated attendance at all churches near the plant.

Bill Reese, whose Valley Baptist Church is just three and a half miles from the crippled Metropolitan Edison Unit 2, sent his wife Sheila and two daughters to Sheila's parents in Ohio. They were still gone a week later and Reese hovered over his radio and police scanner, keeping up with developments by the minute.

He said no one in the faded five-mile circle would talk of anything but the potential holocaust that lurked inside the four-foot thick cement belly of the plant.

For worship, just 41 people sat in the pews normally occupied by 125-145 at Valley. In Sunday School, only 27 students came when average attendance is 110-115. The offering was \$208, nearly \$700 below the average. "One more Sunday like the last one and we're in real financial trouble," Reese said.

Tension eased farther from Middletown where pastors found their faith a stark contrast to the confusion and clamor that gripped those around them.

Terry Douglas, pastor of the East Shore Baptist Church in Harrisburg, 14 miles from the plant, said his members told him, "This will give us great opportunities to share Jesus Christ with people who are running scared and climbing the walls. It's a great witness tool to give people something to hang onto."

Biloxi Man Tries ACTION In Indiana

By Mose Dangerfield, Consultant Sunday School Department

Bob Golden of Biloxi recently left Crystal Springs Baptist Church, Tyngsboro, to serve as pastor of East Tipp Baptist Church, Lafayette, Indiana.

Shortly after becoming pastor, Golden led his church to engage in an ACTION campaign. On Kick-Off Sunday fully one-third of the church's active membership participated in the program of personally attempting to enroll people in Bible study in a house-to-house canvass.

After the Monday night visitation, the church found it had increased its enrollment by 32%.

Rather than "touch them and lose them" the church decided not to enroll any more until they could assimilate what they now had enrolled.

"God has blessed us tremendously," pastor Golden said. "There are scores of people who need to know that someone cares, and that God is concerned. We want to meet that need and we are prepared to pay the price to let God direct us to his harvest."

ACTION is still being used as an effective plan of reaching people for Christ through Bible study. East Tipp Baptist Church is well aware of this. It was organized as a church by an ACTION campaign.

Dallas (RNS) — Southern Baptist evangelist James Robison is planning to file a lawsuit in the wake of the cancellation of his weekly television program by a local station because of his continued criticisms of homosexuality.

Willis E. Dewberry, interim pastor at Country and Town Baptist Church in Camp Hill, 15 miles from the plant, said his church hadn't missed a service during the incident. Twelve to 15 families left town, he said, but they are returning.

None of the pastors reached by phone had become nuclear opponents. Speaking for themselves and the great numbers of people they've talked with during the week of tension, they said most of them, if assured the plant had been repaired and was safe, would not fear its reactivation.

Perhaps the strongest voice, rising from the tumult of conflicting reports,

is from the reactor itself. "The reactor is saying 'mistreat me and I'll blow you all to kingdom come. Treat me carefully and prayerfully and I'll serve you faithfully the rest of your lives,'" said Dewberry.

The whole incident will be grist for the sermon mills for months to come. Dewberry preached the next Sunday on "The voice that wakes the dead." "We better listen," he said. "We have problems facing us in the future. We better get our hearts and hands and heads together and prepare to do the job."

(Norman Jameson is Baptist Press feature editor.)

Committee Now Accepting Nominations For Boards

The committee on Nominations, Mississippi Baptist Convention, is receiving recommendations for membership on the boards of the several colleges, according to the chairman.

Those on the committee this year are: Frank Gunn, chairman, P. O. Box 145, Biloxi, MS 39533; Ed North, P. O. Box P, Quitman, MS 39355; Dan Morton, P. O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751; Charles Hollifield, P. O. Box 219, Liberty, MS 39465; and Gene Tension, Rt. 6, Booneville, MS 38829.

Recommendations for such memberships should be supported by detailed information as indicated on personal data forms which may be obtained from the chairman of the Committee on Nominations.

All recommendations should be received by the chairman of the Committee on Nominations not later than 60 days prior to the annual convention. The chairman this year is Frank Gunn.

Criteria should include the following factors, Gunn said.

(1) All nominees for the position of trustee of a Mississippi Baptist college

should be members in good standing of a Baptist Church cooperating with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

(2) All members of Boards of Trustees should be individuals who believe wholeheartedly in the program of Christian higher education as promoted by Mississippi Baptists, and should have demonstrated loyalty to, or support of, the college to be served.

(3) Nominees should be college graduates or persons of demonstrated intellectual attainments, and should have gained recognition as leaders in their professions or occupations.

(4) Final selection should be made so as to include no more than seven nor less than four pastors for each college.

(5) Final selections should provide a broad geographical representation on the board of each college.

(6) Final selections should provide a broad spectrum of professional and business capability.

(7) Final selections should be made so as to maintain at all times a substantial number of graduates or former students of the college for which nominations are made.

N. O. Trustee Campaign Surpasses Goal In Two Days

NEW ORLEANS — It took barely two days of concentrated efforts for James Davison and his committee to subscribe pledges far surpassing the \$150,000 base goal for the Trustee/Former Trustee Campaign of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recently.

Davison reported that the initial goal had been passed before the end of the first day of meetings of the Board of Trustees, which met at the Seminary earlier in March. By the end of the two-day session, the total pledged to the capital and endowment funds campaign had almost reached the challenge goal of \$250,000, which Davison expects will be passed soon.

He said that the pledges had come from presently active trustees only, with two active members not present of the 34-member board. A campaign

among former trustees was expected to be in full swing before the end of March.

Davison is owner of Davison Petroleum Products and of Davison Transport, Inc., both of Ruston, La. He is being helped by the following persons: Max Craig, of Stanley, N. C., as chairman of the Initial Gifts Division; Frank Gunn, pastor of the First Church, Biloxi, as chairman of the Ministers' Division; William Norman, of Gaithersburg, Md., as chairman of the Laymen's Division; Don Manuel, of Brookhaven, is serving as chairman of the Former Trustee Division; and Ed Wood, a New Orleans resident, will be honorary co-chairman.

The Trustee/Former Trustee Campaign is part of an extensive drive to raise more than \$2 million for capital and endowment purposes at the Seminary, the fourth largest accredited

seminary in the world, according to Seminary officials.

The first \$1 million will be used to complete funding plans for a proposed student center for the Seminary. The center will be adjacent to Leavell Chapel on the west side of the campus, and will cost more than \$3.2 million, according to Tom Berry, vice president for development at the school, and campaign director.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the Seminary's parent organization, has already committed \$2.225 million toward the center, which will have a new cafeteria, student supplies store, clinic, post office, and other student facilities.

The remainder of the campaign funds will be used for endowment purposes for the Seminary, meeting other financial needs for the education of ministers and church staff personnel.

Students Bike To N. O., Assist BSU In Oshkosh, Dip Soup In Baltimore

Twenty-six Mississippi State University students were involved in four mission-related projects during their spring holidays, March 3-11. Fourteen students were involved in an inner-city ministry with Seventh Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

Five visited the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh to assist with their young Baptist Student Union program. Five students biked from Starkville to New Orleans to promote BSU student missions and raise funds for the missions program. Two attended the College Student Missions Conference at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

The Baltimore project involved students in a soup kitchen ministry, visiting the elderly, evangelistic visitation, working with pre-school children, and physical labor. Five students from Acts Too, the BSU creative worship team, combined with a musical group from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to make presentations at a bus stop in front of the church, at an "alley rally" for children, in a service held at a senior citizens apartment building, and at a half-way house for recovering alcoholics.

Members of the Baltimore team were Becky Ratliff, Jackson; Katrina Smith, Columbus; Judy McNeill,

Memphis; Carol Beattie, Starkville; Kathy Clark, Baldwin; Kathy Cochran, Nesbit; Ann Southerland, Columbus; Jim Shoff, Picayune; Kent Monroe, Laurel; Joey Brent, Bogie Chito; Andy Campbell, Clarksdale; Doug Houston, Starkville; Bill Lollar, Columbus; and Dan Watson, Manila, Philippines.

The Oshkosh team worked with the BSU there in manning a free Christian literature table on campus, showing Christian films in the dorms and the student union building, making personal contacts with unenlisted students, and providing leadership for an overnight retreat at the end of the week. The Baptist Student Union at Oshkosh and Mississippi State have developed a "sister campus" relationship.

Bill Branch, who will be a BSU summer missionary in Bangladesh this year, led the bike-a-thon to New Orleans. The students rode over 300 miles, staying with church families and BSU groups along the way. Housing and hospitality were provided by First Baptist, Louisville; North Calvary, Philadelphia; First Baptist, Newton; Maurice Flowers, director of missions for Jones County; William Carey College; the BSU at Pearl River Junior College; Calvary Baptist, Slidell, Louisiana; and First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

Johnny Buckner, Starkville, and Greg Anthony, Jackson, attended the Thirtieth Annual Missions Conference at Southwestern Seminary. In addition to participating in the conference, both visited in classes and met several seminary professors.

Although each project was different in goals and the types of activity involved, each provided an opportunity for students to become aware of their own personal gifts for ministry.

Liberty Will See Film On Russia

Mike Pennock of Jackson will show the film, "To Russia With Love," at 6:45 p.m. at Liberty Church, Flowood, Sunday, April 15. Morning services Easter at Liberty will be at 11, following Sunday School at 10. An offering will be taken for buying Bibles to distribute in Communist countries.



OSHKOSH TEAM — Pictured are (front row) Jan Thomas, Vicksburg; Susan Mynatt, Charlotte, North Carolina; (back row) Mark Gregory, Carthage; Steve Grafton, Pascagoula; and Eric Partridge, Vicksburg. (Photo by Terry Hitt)



BIKE TEAM — Pictured with James Bryant, pastor of North Calvary Church, Philadelphia, are Lane Frazier, Jackson; Bill Branch, New Orleans, Louisiana; Eddie Garcia, Corinth; Don Goode, Pontotoc; Bill Barstis, Mississippi State. (Photo by Lee Dukes, NESHOBA DEMOCRAT)

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

More Than Easter Sunday . . .

Way Of Life Has Always Been Available

Our Lord throughout all the ages has been seeking to show man how to live rather than making provisions that he should die. Our unsaved acquaintances complain that they do not understand how a loving God can send a man to Hell. Of course, he doesn't. The Scriptures are full of His efforts to call men to life rather than sentencing them to death.

As early as in the Garden of Eden He pointed out how man could avoid death. And on the fateful night in Egypt, when the death angel passed over the land, the Lord told His people how to live — by trusting in the blood of the passover lamb.

Were there some Israelites who said, "That just doesn't make sense. I'm not going to go out and kill one of my good lambs and put its blood on my doorpost." Surely not. They all believed and their children were saved.

In the wilderness, when the children of Israel were grumbling because they were not getting to their destination

soon enough, their rebellion began to destroy them. God provided a way they might live. It was to raise the symbol of their sin up on a standard above the earth, and those who would look to that substitute for their sin would live.

Did some Israelite say, "I've been bitten by one of these snakes, but I'm not going to look at that bronze snake on a stick. That doesn't make sense." Surely not. They trusted. They looked. And they lived.

Jesus is the Lamb of God. We know that it was through the shedding of His blood that we are able to have salvation, that we might live rather than die. It was Jesus who became the sin bearer for us, who took upon Himself the sin for all of us, and who was lifted up between heaven and earth so that those who would look to Him would live.

Jesus died on the cross as He was lifted up. As He poured out His blood to save us from death, He died.

Had it been left at that, none of us

would live. Had it been left at that after Calvary, the Israelites would never have escaped Egyptian bondage. There could have been no provision for escape through the shedding of the blood of the passover lamb. Had it been left at that, there would have been no wanderers in the wilderness; but had they managed to make it that far, they would have been left to face their sins alone.

Calvary was not the end of it. He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The plan for life was put into effect before the world was ever called into being.

He came forth out of the tomb and walked the earth again. He continues to live and will live forever more. So will those of the rest of us who have faith that the blood of the Lamb of God will wipe out the penalty for our sin. If we will look to Jesus, the Lamb who was slain and who was the substitute for our sin, we will live. We will live because He lives, and the Father has provided this way of life at the cost of

the life of His own Son.

That Jesus lives and that we can live through faith in Him is a fact that we should proclaim every day of our lives, and we should come together at least once a week to celebrate it.

We have chosen one time during the year to call particular attention to the fact that Christ is alive and will be forever more. That is Easter Sunday. Many celebrate His resurrection only on that occasion. It is better once a year than never at all, and let's be thankful for that one occasion of worship for some.

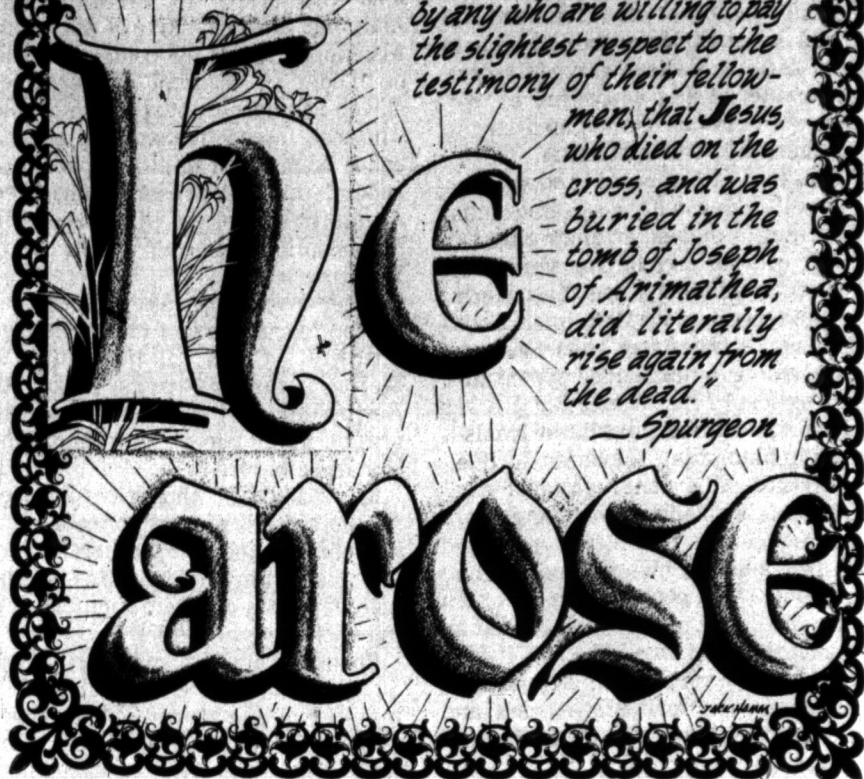
But to those whose habit it is to observe Christ's resurrection only that one time during the year it must be said that the resurrection was the most important event ever to shape the history of the world or to bear upon their lives individually.

Surely it deserves more than a once-a-year notice. The Master is showing us how to live. Let's pay attention.

TESTIMONY OF THE AGES

"We have often asserted, and we affirm it yet again, that no fact in history is better attested than the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It must not be denied, by any who are willing to pay the slightest respect to the testimony of their fellow-men, that Jesus, who died on the cross, and was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, did literally rise again from the dead."

— Spurgeon



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

With His Stripes We Are Healed

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows . . . he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities . . . and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).

It was night and the next step would be Rio. From the plane I tried to see some landmark — the curve of Copacabana Beach or the statue of Christ on Corcovado. But I saw clouds only, and then acres of lights like diamonds scattered across the mountains. Suddenly we were at the airport and the Brazilian pastor, David Gomes and his wife Haydee were greeting me. David ushered me into a van with his daughter Esther Ruth and her fiancé, Geremias.

In his non-stop manner of talking, David was saying, "I can show you dozens of places that you should write about in 'Faces and Places.' There is one now." And he pointed to a collection of buildings at a high point in the city, centered by a tower.

"That is the Oswaldo Cruz Institute. It is a lab and research center established in honor of a man who gave his life for others. Cruz freed Rio of one of its greatest enemies, yellow fever." The institute is used now, he said, mainly for the study of experimental pathology.

Later I looked in an international encyclopedia to find out more about Oswaldo Cruz. He was a bacteriologist, physician, hygienist, Director of the Health Department in Rio, and a disciple of the French chemist, Louis Pasteur. This young man had an iron will, and would never give up a cause, no matter the cost to himself.

As early as 1900, when he was 18, he began the campaign to rid his city of the dreaded and terrible disease, yellow fever, and by 1909, when he was 27, his mosquito control program had practically ended yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro.

Cruz also successfully eradicated bubonic plague from Rio and greatly lessened the number of those dying of smallpox.

He represented Brazil in Berlin in an International Congress of Health and

was awarded the highest prize, a gold medal given by the empress of Germany. From the French Government he received the Medal of Honor.

Then, I am told, in the course of his experiments, through his lab work he contracted a fatal disease and died at age 45, in 1917.

Because this man valued others more than self he spared the lives of thousands.

Mama's chicken house still stands, but the door is off its hinges, the metal roof is rusty, and the hen nests have fallen down. I remember well, though, when Mama kept chickens — domineers and white Leghorns and Rhode Island reds. Daddy had two pet hens he called Ada and Gladys. The hens with young chicks would strut about with pride, scratch in the dirt, and cluck, always keeping protectively close to their babies.

I thought of Ada and Gladys when Louise Hill Miller sent me a clipping from the Mt. Nebo Church (Newton County) bulletin. Louise worked in the state Church Training Department for a long time and still writes to me regularly. The pastor at Mt. Nebo, Charles Davis, had included an illustration in the bulletin that seems to be adaptable to the meaning of Easter.

A minister was boarding at a farmhouse. One morning the farmer invited the minister to go with him to the chicken house. There on one of the nests sat a hen with a brood of chickens peeping out from under her wings.

"Touch her, preacher," said the farmer. As the preacher placed his hand on the hen, he found she was cold.

"Look at the wound in her head. A weasel has sucked all the blood from her body, and she never once moved for fear the little beast would get her chickens," explained the farmer.

This gave the minister an opportunity to explain to the farmer who was not a Christian, though his wife had been praying for him for years, that Jesus Christ was like that hen. He endured all the suffering of the cross, and did not move, for we were under His wings.

Book Reviews

CHURCH MUSIC R.F.D. compiled by Jimmy McCaleb and Dan C. Hall (Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 140 pp., paper, \$6.00) This comprehensive and practical music manual has been published by the Mississippi Church Music Department, specifically for "the small rural churches in the state."

many of which have limited facilities, space, and money." Dan Hall, director, Church Music Department, states, "Without apology we tell you this manual is a cornbread and peas approach to helping those hundreds of singing and God-loving congregations in churches and memberships under 200, and their pastors and lay music leaders — those called on week by week to do the music in their churches." He adds that the manual has valuable information for any church, regardless of size and location.

Jimmy McCaleb, music minister at 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, headed the Planning-Writing Team of 60 persons who contributed to the book in some way.

Most chapters begin with a success story concerning the music of a particular church, titled "This Worked For Us."

The 14 chapters cover every imaginable phase of music ministry in the small church: the essentials of a music ministry; a look at the music needs of the church; responsibilities of music leaders; worship service ideas; prayer service outlines; sample Orders of Service, sermons in song. There are chapters on the pastor, the music director/song leader, and the accompanists. A chapter on music groups discusses soloists, vocal

groups, instrumental soloists, the youth choir, rehearsal procedures, etc. There's a chapter on children's music and one on revival music. Other subjects include financing the music ministry, physical facilities for good music, music resources, and the music library. At the close there's a glossary of musical terms.

The easy-to-read book is made even more so with illustrations by Betty Bingham and cartoons by Joe McKeever and photographs by Bob Shuttlesworth.

TWO OF EVERYTHING BUT ME by Marion B. West (Broadman, 118 pp., \$3.95) A mother of twins writes with candor and humor about the agony and ecstasy of multiple births. Some of these "slices of life" have appeared in magazines like *Guideposts* and *Home Life*. The author is a Georgian.

THE CHINESE CONNECTION by Pai Ye Loh with foreword by Brother Andrew (Fleming H. Revell, 158 pp., \$6.95) The story is fiction, but Brother Andrew says in the introduction that "it reflects accurately the truth of China as I know it." The main character is a young Chinese man in Taiwan who joins a rebel communist organization. He rebels against his family and his country. Soon he is in prison. To him there comes the message of salvation from his Christian uncle. Lee's enthusiasm is then rechanneled into God's work and he becomes involved in an effort to smuggle bibles into China. The author is an American, "a personal friend of the real people who are the basis for the story." He is among those who have dared to risk "the Chinese connection."

The Legislature . . .

Commendation For Good Work

Before the recently concluded state legislative session got under way a number of people were calling for new laws affecting pornography, for it had been evident for several years that Mississippi's laws were so general as to be unenforceable. Due to the courageous action and determined spirit of several legislators, new laws were passed that prohibit the sexual exploitation of children and prohibit the dissemination of sexually oriented material to people under 18 years of age. A discussion of the legislative session by Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, is to be found in this issue.

We want to commend the many representatives who determinedly stood for what they felt to be right during this session. There are many such persons in the Legislature, and their ranks seem to be growing. For this we must be grateful.

There is no way to try to comment on the entire output of the session, but several items of legislation must be noted. For instance, as with Dr. Hensley, the ethics bill that was passed is to be appreciated. This was not

without a struggle, as news stories have noted. But it is worthwhile.

The Legislature continued the 3 per cent mark up on alcoholic beverages for use in rehabilitation. It was to have expired after this year. This is good. If we must have beverage alcohol, we can expect problems to develop. This law provides for alcohol helping to pay for the problems it creates by providing funds for the rehabilitation of problem drinkers.

Some of the many bills introduced died along the way, and in some cases this is fortunate. One of these was a bill that would have allowed for the advertisement of alcohol. This one comes up every year; and thanks to some far-thinking legislators, every year it dies at some point. Mississippi is not an all-wet state. In fact, an area has to vote to become wet. Advertising would not only cause an increase of drinking in wet areas (else why advertise?), but it would also go into dry areas and cause the sale of liquor in those places to increase.

One bill died that we could have used very well. It was the one that would have established that a person would be considered drunk with a blood al-

cohol content of .10 per cent. This bill has died two years in a row, and Mississippi is left as the only state in the nation that allows a blood alcohol content of more than .10 per cent. Mississippi's allowable is 50 per cent higher at .15 per cent. Maybe next year this one will pass.

There are some very good people in

our state Legislature, and we need to commend them for their efforts. Also we need to support them in their efforts to make Mississippi a better place in which to live. Trying to keep up with all the legislation that is introduced is difficult and confusing, even for the legislators. We must help them all we can.

Bible Book Series . . .

Commentary After Easter

As was mentioned in a previous statement on this page, J. Roy McComb, pastor of First Church, Columbia, will provide commentary for a section of Sunday School lessons from the new Bible Book Series. We had first thought to start this commentary with April 1, but Dr. McComb pointed out that beginning at that time would cause the comments to be broken by the lesson for Easter Sunday on the Resurrection. One of the more attractive concepts as far as the new series is concerned is that it moves steadily through the material rather than moving about to discuss subjects.

Because of this Dr. McComb asked that the commentary pick up with the discussion of the second section of Mark at Chapter 3, Verse 7 on the Sunday after Easter and move through the section. This we will do.

The Baptist Record has heard from a number of churches that have begun to use the new series. All have expressed satisfaction with its use. We would be interested in hearing from all churches or individual departments or classes that are using it. We must try to make a decision on the use of a commentary on the new series.

Letters to the Editor

The Local Church

Editor:

I want to compliment you on your editorial, "It All Begins With the Local Church." This is probably the best editorial I've seen in the Baptist Record.

As I read the editorial I thought about the "Bold Missions Thrust" of Baptists. As I understand it, we have the volunteers, but not the money to launch and maintain this mission program.

\$304 million given to the "Electronic Church" in one year! Can you imagine what "Bold Missions Thrust" could have done with that kind of money? I wonder how many Southern Baptists listen to the emotional appeals of those electronic ministers, send them money, and then when Sunday comes have none left to give their own church?

John Alexander has a very good article in the Baptist Record of March 15, about putting your money in the right place.

Thanks again for the editorial. It is one of the best. May it open the eyes of thinking Southern Baptists.

Cecil Mulloy
Arcola

Growing Sunday School

Editor:

It was a real thrill and privilege for me to receive one of the "I'm Pastor of a Growing Sunday School" buttons at the Evangelistic Conference. Our Sunday School has done quite well the past two years. During that time we have had a twenty-eight percent increase in our Sunday School attendance, and an even greater increase so far this year.

However, in all honesty, I must say that I can claim none of the credit for this growth. All of the credit must go to God, of course. Yet we all know that God uses people to carry out his ministry on the earth. Therefore, I want to give credit to some of the best "ministers" I have known. It is because of them that our Sunday School is healthy and growing.

In my opinion, we have the best Sunday School Director in the state of Mis-

issippi in the person of George Allen Lee. He is one of the most dedicated, conscientious young men that I have ever known.

I also believe that we have the best Sunday School faculty in the state. It is a rare thing for one of our teachers to be absent, and on the occasions when one of them has to be out, he always contacts his substitute to be sure someone will be in charge of his class. Furthermore, the teachers are always well-prepared and equipped with modern, attractive teaching aids to make their presentations more effective. Even more important than their faithfulness and dedication, however, is their genuine day by day demonstration of the principles that they teach.

You can see why I cannot claim any credit for our good Sunday School. I am just thankful that the Carrollton Baptist Church lets me be their pastor. It is my prayer that this letter will be as refreshing to you as working with these good people is to me.

George Smith

Happy For Jennifer

Editor:

I was so touched after reading the article, "At Last, Someone Saw Jennifer's Beauty," that I wanted to share some things with you. You see, there are reminders of things we have experienced. First, over eight years ago, my only daughter gave birth by C section to a little girl that was a Hydrocephalus; she lived around three hours. They then started adoption plans; Sellers Home was recommended to them. The little girl they let them have was nine months, and one day younger than theirs would have been. We feel this was God's plan.

I am so happy for little "Jennifer," and I praise God for the wonderful people who adopted her; and who love her so much. For I feel that only God could inspire one to love that much.

I also am thankful for Sellers Home, and for the precious little girl that they made possible for us to have to love and enjoy as we do. I pray that our Heavenly Father will use her life to bring glory to Him. She sings very sweetly now, so who knows — ?

Mrs. Marie Grubbs
Tylertown

The Baptist Record

(ISSN 0005-5778)

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Jackson, Miss. 39201

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Official Journal of
The Mississippi Baptist Convention

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ton.

Subscription \$3.75 a year payable in advance.
Published weekly except week of July 4 and
Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Missis-
sippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern
Baptist Press Association.

Thursday, April 12, 1979

Volunteers At Seamen's Centers Find The World Docked At Their Doorsteps

By Anne McWilliams

Thirty thousand seamen last year visited Mississippi ports. Of these, 759 visited the Gulfport Baptist Seamen's Center from 49 countries and 93 ships.

April 1 was Seamen's Ministry Day in Pascagoula and April 8 in Gulfport. Open house was held at the Seamen's Center in each city to pay tribute to teams of volunteers who keep both centers open nights from 8 to 10. Curry parties at Gulfport and Ocean Springs had previously been given for volunteers.

Paul Vandercook, director of ministry to seamen, said, "Honor is due the volunteers, all of them. If we didn't have them we wouldn't have anything. Because of their dedication and concern, hundreds of men from other nations have had a chance to hear of God's love."

Twenty-three churches in Jackson Association are now furnishing volunteer teams; last year 22 Gulf Coast Association churches, plus a BSU team, volunteered for regular work with seamen. The associations own the Centers; the port authorities furnish the sites for them. Vandercook has written a training manual for the volunteers' use.

Volunteer Of Year

Volunteer of the Year awards were handed out in 1978 for the first time. Bill Pigford was the winner in Jackson County Association, and Charles Delk in Gulf Coast.

Bobby Hammond, Man Most Likely to Get a Volunteer of the Year Award in 1979, is plant manager for Reichhold Chemical Plant and a member of New Hope Church, Gulf Coast. "RAs, Acteens, Brotherhood from my church all have helped out," he said. "We go to the Gulfport Center one Thursday night every month. Sometimes my wife and 15-year-old son go with me."

His wife can't board the ship, though, for only adult males are allowed to do so, unless they have special permission from the ship's captain. Seamen who regularly stop at Pascagoula or Gulfport may already know about the Centers. But crewmen in port for the first time will not know unless told personally. Volunteers regularly board ships to issue invitations. Hammond said, "I've never been treated rudely on a ship." He got started as a volunteer "because I got roped into it." He first went along as a chaperone for the Acteens. "Now I'm so enthusiastic I wouldn't think of stopping."

"Often," he continued, "when I talk to men on the ships some of them will say, 'We want women and beer,' and I tell them we don't have those at the Center but we have chess and Coca Cola and Jesus. The idea is new to a lot of them, and often they ask to hear more about Jesus."

Language

Besides the ping pong and chess they offer checkers and devotional talks and books and magazines and television, as well as conversation. Last year volunteers at the Gulfport Center gave away 479 Bibles or New Testaments and 738 tracts and 42 tapes in 75 languages. As a result, 29 professions of faith were recorded there.

Volunteers offer to mail letters for the seamen; they keep stamps on hand, and telephone change, and will help the men place calls to their families.

Pastor Jerry File's Brother And Father Die

Jerry E. File, pastor of Second Avenue Church, Laurel, Mississippi, lost his brother, Stanley E. File, by death on March 25, and his father, August A. File, Sr., on March 26.

Stanley File was pastor of several churches in Mississippi before entering pioneer missions in Alaska and Washington. His last pastorate was the Cherry Hill Church in Port Angeles, Washington. After he fought leukemia for a number of years, he was told by physicians the disease was in remission. He then developed heart problems and had an attack in Washington. Because of this last problem he was forced to take a medical retirement.

He and his wife, Annie Laurie, moved to Beaumont, Texas, and the Highland Avenue Church. She is church secretary and he was educational consultant with Pastor Frank Lescallotte. In November 1978, he had open heart surgery, after which major complications developed of which he never completely recovered. He was 53.

The father, August A. File, Sr., also had had several heart attacks, and upon hearing of his eldest son's death succumbed in his sleep. He lived in Fernwood, Mississippi, and was 77.

Besides Jerry File, there remain Augie File, Jackson, William and Tom who live in Ocean Springs, and one sister, Penny Matkin of Houston, Texas.

"Usually," Hammond said, "at least one of a party of seamen will be able to speak English. Even if the others can't understand what we are saying, we can communicate through signs and smiles. Perhaps we should learn some other languages rather than always expecting others to learn ours."

Bill Pigford, Jackson County Volunteer of the Year, and his Japanese-born wife, Toshiko, are members of Wade Church, and both have been active in the seamen's ministry at Pascagoula from its beginning three years ago.

Pigford teaches horticulture in the high school at Hurley. Though he does not speak another language, his wife of course speaks Japanese. He said, "I think she relates to the seamen better than I do, especially the oriental ones, as her mother was a Buddhist, and she understands the thoughts of the oriental mind."

He is sure that his volunteer work is time well spent: "This is missions. Always I have had a spot in my heart for foreign missions." He and Toshiko had been going regularly to the Center for more than two years before they saw any visible results, though they had heard that other groups report professions of faith. Then a man from India and two from the Philippines made professions of faith within a few weeks. Pigford said, "The Lord knew I needed some encouragement."

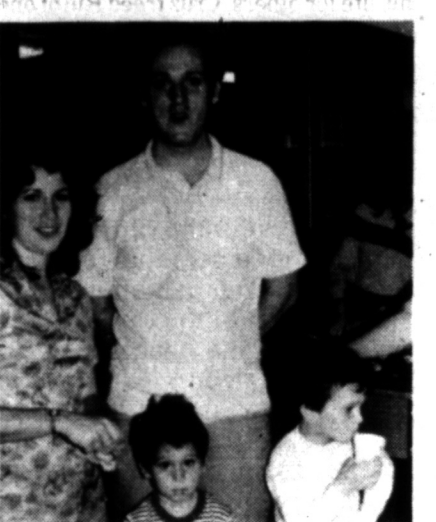
Tracts

He related how tracts were instrumental in winning Kamal Kumar, a Buddhist from India. "He was given two tracts when he visited the Center in July of 1977. They were the only material we had in his language, Hindi. Later his ship returned to Pascagoula and was in port for three days; during that time the Center was not open.

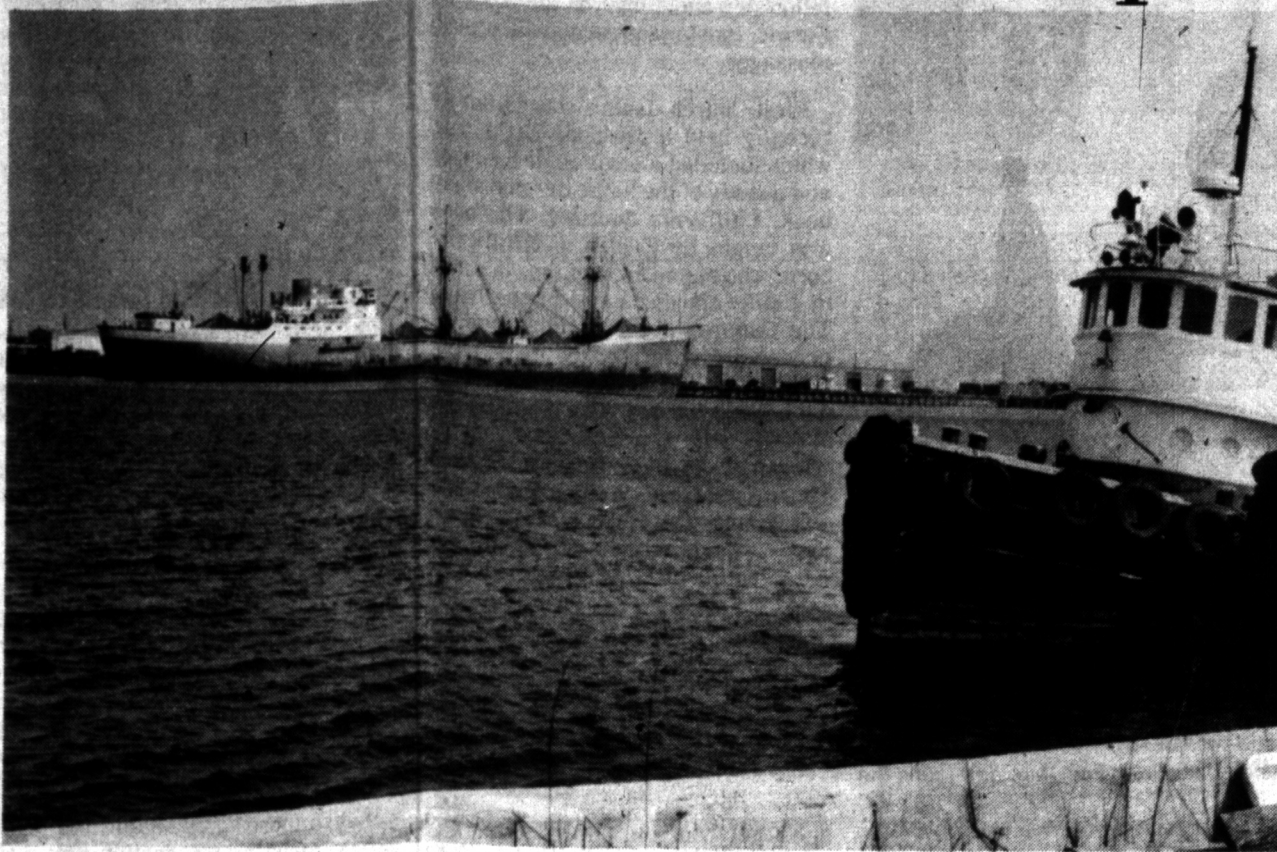
"When at last Kamal heard the Center was open he ran to tell us he had read the tracts and had come to believe in Jesus Christ and to worship him. He repeatedly told us how happy he was to see us again."

Frustrations

Charles Delk, Gulf Coast Volunteer of the Year, and member of Bayou View Church, mentioned the disappointments and frustrations. He said, "Some nights no seamen at all come, even when the Center is open. But the team itself can still benefit from the time of fellowship together."



SOME VOLUNTEER TEAMS include family groups, for seamen seem to enjoy talking with children. Other teams include teen-agers and young adults. Some teams are made up of senior adults. Charles Gibbs, pastor at Fernwood Church, pictured with his family at the Gulfport Seamen's Center, and around 20 young people from Fernwood open the Center three Friday nights a month.



While a Russian ship was in dock at Gulfport, the crewmen were not permitted to come ashore and so could not visit the Baptist Seamen's Center.

Also he has been disappointed that he has not yet been able to invite a seaman into his home because the ones he has met were not in port long enough for such a visit.

Delk's biggest problem, he said, is a feeling of frustration when he goes aboard a ship and tells his story and seems to get little or no response. But he said he feels that the satisfaction of the work overweighs the discouragement.

"Some day we will find the right way to reach all the men. There is a key somewhere and we will find it. I am enthusiastic. I know the work is worthwhile, so much so that I can't stop going."

"I have had some discussions about religious faith," he continued, "with South American Catholics and with Buddhists. I have told them my favorite Scriptures and they have told me what they believe."

"It seems to me that orientals have responded best but Spanish and Latin Americans have come, too, and men from India — but not many from northern Europe — Germany and France."

Delk said that the biggest need in the seamen's ministry is always for more volunteers. "There are never enough to fill all the nights. Any church or individual interested in volunteering might call Paul Vandercook at 832-4311."

A goal for the ministry is to keep both centers open in the daytime as well as at night. That way invitations might get to the men sooner, so that they may know the recreation available to them at night.

More Volunteers Needed

"One night," Pigford reported, "the guard at the gate told us we should have been there a few nights before, when the center was closed and 50 or more men wanted to get in."

Hammond pointed out that one person needs to lead out in a church group of volunteers, to encourage them to keep coming month after month, when the routine begins to get tedious.

He added that it is a joy to get to know the seamen, many of whom are well educated and well read men, and who are well paid, but who are lonely because they have to be so long away from their homes and families.

"As we talk they listen politely. You can't tell what they really may be thinking and what they may do later."

What Do You Know About Easter?

By Ruby Rose Hamilton, Gulfport

1. After Jesus was taken from the cross He was buried in the tomb of a wealthy man named (Luke 23:50-53)

Levi Thomas Joseph Zacharias

2. Which one of these Hebrew prophets gave a detailed prediction of Christ's crucifixion and burial about 769 B.C.? (Isaiah 53:7-10)

Isaiah Jeremiah Samuel Elijah

3. Jesus was crucified with how many thieves? (Luke 23:32-33)

Two three four six

4. While on the cross Jesus asked for a drink and was given (John 19:28-29)

goat's milk water vinegar wine

5. Because of Christ's request while on the cross, which one of these apostles took Christ's mother into his home after the crucifixion? (John 19:25-27)

James Matthew Peter John

6. Which of these apostles outran Peter and arrived at the empty tomb first? (John 20:2-4)

John Philip James Thomas

7. The first person to whom Jesus spoke after His resurrection was (John 20:11-16)

Peter Mary Joanna John

8. Which apostle said he refused to believe in the resurrection until he could place his fingers in the nail wounds in Christ's hands? (John 20:24-25)

9. Jesus' opposition to prejudice was shown when He chose as the hero of His "brotherhood" story from the people most despised by the Hebrews, which were the (Luke 10:30-33)

Romans Samaritans Egyptians Greeks

As they take time to read the tracts and Scriptures and have time to think on board ship, who knows how far our influence may reach? God's Spirit working in and through them, no telling what will happen when these men get back to their countries. One won't win his family and many others."

Indian Curry

Here is the recipe for the curry prepared by Fran Vandercook for parties given in honor of volunteers in the seamen's ministry:

Mix:
1/3 cup chopped onion
1 tart apple, chopped
1/4 cup margarine
Saute.

Add:
1/3 cup flour
1 or 2 tsp curry powder
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp ginger
Blend.

Add:
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup light cream
1 cup milk
Simmer a few minutes.

Add:
3 or 4 cups chopped cooked chicken
Juice of 1/2 lemon

Heat and serve over rice.

To serve with the curry, you can have as many of these in small dishes on the table as you like: sliced raw carrots, sliced raw cucumbers, bananas, sweet pickles, green onion tops chopped; apples, tomatoes, peanuts, coconut, raisins, chopped boiled eggs, pineapple, bacon bits.

working in and through them, no telling what will happen when these men get back to their countries. One won't win his family and many others."



Bobby Hammond of New Hope Church, Gulf Coast, is Man Most Likely to be a 1979 Volunteer of the Year.

CP Gifts 11% Ahead Of Last Year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Six months into the 1978-79 fiscal year, contributions to the national Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program have reached the \$31.5 million mark, 11.39 percent ahead of receipts at the same point last year.

The 1978-79 budget calls for \$64 million in basic operating and capital needs for the SBC's worldwide missions effort and another \$11 million in challenge funds to finance the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust plan to reach the world for Christ in this century.

The \$31.5 million figure represents undesignated funds. In addition to that, Southern Baptists have contributed another \$35.3 million in designated funds, for a total of \$66.8 million during the first six months. That ranks 12.36 percent ahead of last year.

During the month of March alone, undesignated Cooperative Program contributions totaled more than \$5.3 million, a 13.01 percent increase over the same month last year.

"The 13.01 percent increase demonstrates a continued concern for Bold Mission Thrust," declared Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee which receives and disburses national Cooperative Program funds to SBC agencies.

Routh also expressed approval of Southern Baptist response to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which thus far has collected more than \$32 million in designated contributions, a 12 percent increase over the same period last year.

Total contributions for March, including the Cooperative Program amount, totaled more than \$14.6 million, a 24.9 percent increase over last March.

"Bowl With Beer Or Not At All"

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (RNS) — A bowling alley has refused to renew a contract with a church bowling team because its members don't drink beer.

Gordon D. Biehl of South Covenant Church here said that the bowling alley "management feels it does not make enough money off bowling and depends on beer-drinkers to make a profit."

The church team has bowled at the same place for 15 years, but the alley recently came under new management.

Madison WMU Plans Program On Rape Crisis

A rape crisis program is planned for April 18 by the Woman's Missionary Union of Madison Baptist Church of Madison. The program will begin at 9 a.m., according to Mary Dorsey, program director, Brooke Thornton of Jackson will be the speaker.

Other elements of the program, according to Mrs. Dorsey, will be a film and a discussion on how to avoid rape — what to do and what not to do.

Music expresses that which cannot be said, and which cannot be suppressed. — Victor Hugo

Conference On Growing Older Will Be A First For Mississippi

Mississippi's first Conference On Growing Older will be held April 24-26, in the Downtown Holiday Inn, Jackson. It will combine inspiration and education with social activities and sightseeing. The theme is Make Life Abundant in Older Years.

According to David Ray, President of Total Living For Fifty Plus, the sponsoring organization, the conference is for all middle age and older adults and those of any age who are interested. In addition, it is for those of all ages who work with middle age and senior adults in the local church and community.

Ten seminars and workshops will be featured. They include "How To Develop An Outstanding Program With, By, and For Older Persons In The Local Church," "Understanding And Meeting The Needs Of Middle Age and Senior Adults," "Take Care Of Yourself (Health Care)," "Make Your Dollars Really Work For You," "How To Deal With Living Alone," and "Death and Dying — An Affirmation Of Life." Workshops include "Using Leisure Time To Help Yourself And Others," "Traveling For Fun And Growth," "Involvement With Younger People & Older People," and "How To Influence The Political Process."

"We are particularly pleased with the conference leadership," Ray stated. "Several prominent Baptists are involved in the conference." John W. Steen, a native Mississippian and editor of Mature Living, published by

the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, is to lead the seminar on developing programs in the local church and be a keynote speaker.

James L. Travis who has been pastor in Mississippi, Kentucky, and Georgia, will conduct the seminar on health care.

Ralph Atkinson, a financial consultant and member of First Church,

Clinton, is to lead the seminar on use of financial resources for people living on fixed and reduced income.

Carl Savell, Pastor of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, is a member of the Planning Committee.

In addition, Dr. Alton Ochsner, the 83-year-old founder of Ochsner Medical Foundation, New Orleans, will be one of the keynote speakers.

Court Rules For Bishops In NLRB/Union Dispute

WASHINGTON (BP) — A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that the National Labor Relations Board may not force administrators of parochial school systems to permit their lay teachers to unionize.

In a 5-4 opinion delivered by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, the high court avoided addressing directly the constitutional issue raised by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Chicago and Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., that NLRB jurisdiction over union activities in parochial schools violates the No Establishment of Religion clause of the First Amendment.

Instead, the court declared that "there would be a significant risk of

infringement of the religion clauses of the First Amendment if the National Labor Relations Act conferred jurisdiction over church-operated schools."

The majority also suggested that Congress will need to pass additional legislation if it wishes such schools to be covered by the act. Implicit in the suggestion is the prospect of new litigation if Congress responds by including church-related schools.

That court held that "the real difficulty is found in the chilling aspect that the requirement of bargaining will impose on the exercise of the bishops' control of the religious mission of the schools."

Just For The Record ...



THE CHANCEL CHOIR AT FIRST CHURCH, McCOMB, presented "The Seven Last Words of Christ" with the University of Southern Mississippi Orchestra Sunday evening, April 8, at 6 p.m. Special guest for the performance was Clint Nichols, chairman of the Music Department at the New Orleans Seminary, who sang the part of Jesus. Victor Walsh, a McComb dentist and member at First, McComb, sang the baritone and tenor narratives; Mrs. Gloria Delony, also from First, McComb, sang the soprano narratives.

In addition to the orchestra, keyboard accompanists were Mrs. Marilyn Brady, organist, and Mrs. Lorraine Pigott, pianist. Bill Sheffield, a junior at McComb High School, played timpani. D. Neil Harris, minister of music at First, McComb, directed the performance. Seated are Mrs. Pigott, left, and Mrs. Brady. Standing, left to right, are Harris, Mrs. Delony, and Walsh.

First Church of Louise will have its first annual memorial homecoming day, May 6. Activities will begin 10 a.m. for a "time of revival, worship, fellowship and dinner on the ground." Former pastors present will preach messages.

First Church, Isola's church family recently held a Missions Night Out, which included a covered dish supper and a study of the home mission study book, *California Journey*. The book was taught by Evelyn and Billy Osborn, who started one of the churches in California discussed in the book. The Osborns showed slides and he preached at the church on Sunday morning to kick off the week of prayer for home missions. The church went over its goal the first week. W. C. "Scooter" Spears is pastor; Janice Sharp is Baptist Women president; and Janette Crawford is WMU director.

The new Spanish work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast a week ago had 11 in Sunday School and 25 in worship. Meeting at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, Eliu Camacho-Vasquez, pastor to the group, baptized three converts.

Bethel Church, Monticello, has awarded pins to three for one year's perfect attendance in Sunday School. The three are Mrs. Jewelline McCloud, Hezzie Williamson, and Amy Marler. Eleven others got pins for six months perfect attendance. Ken Marler is pastor.

Without constancy, there is neither love, friendship, nor virtue in the world. — Joseph Addison



HERNANDO GA's were honored in a recognition service March 4, with 28 participating and eight getting badges. Younger GAs were included. Patti Manning, leader of girls, 6-8, is shown pinning on badges made especially for this group. Michelle Scott carried the badges on a satin cushion. Marie Cozart, leader of girls, 9-11 decorated a cake with the GA emblem. A reception followed the service. Girls who got badges were Terrie Cozart, Kelly Heimbach, Lisa Cozart, Michelle Kelly, Angie Tacker, Michelle Saucier, Tracie Vickery, and Kelly Fuller. Ace Stallings is GA director for the church and also for Desoto Association.



A NEW FELLOWSHIP hall is complete at FIRST CHURCH, BROOKLYN. On the day ground was broken for the building, the oldest and youngest church members present in Sunday School broke ground. They are pictured with the pastor. Left to right are Kenneth R. Shoemaker, pastor; Terrie McCordle, the youngest; and Mrs. Bertha Cooley, the oldest. Mrs. Cooley also took part several years ago in breaking ground for the church sanctuary.

Task Force For The Blind Meets At Clarke College

Members of the Southern Baptist Convention's joint board "Task Force for Work with the Blind" met recently on the Clarke College campus. The group was organized to implement the O'Shields Resolution adopted by the SBC in Kansas City in 1977. The work of the Task Force is jointly shared by the Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board with each board providing three members.

Representing the Sunday School Board are Morton Rose, the Board's director of the Office of Planning; Eugene Chamberlain, director of the Board's section for publishing special literature; and Eugene Cole, a stenographer at the S.S. Board, who is himself blind.

The Home Mission Board members are Paul Atkins, Chairman of Social Ministries, HMB; Cecil Emeredge, HMB national consultant on blind ministry; and Charles Melton, professor of religious education at Clarke College and director of missions for Newton County.

The group has met regularly in Atlanta and in Nashville to present study papers and review findings relating to materials for and involvement of blind persons in the life of our Southern Baptist churches. The next meeting of the Task Force will be held in Nashville this month.

The Task Force meeting at Clarke shared the chapel hour with students. Cole sang and received a standing ovation from the students. Rose spoke to the students on the fact that we are all

handicapped in some manner, but none more so than those who do not know Jesus. He challenged the students to see the needs of the world and do something to meet them.



Paul Atkins, (left), Charles Melton (center), and Morton Rose, (right) were participants in the Task Force for Work with the Blind meeting at Clarke.

Quedlinburg, DDR — The Baptist church here expects to begin construction soon on a new building, and is looking for workers to help with the two-year project. The present building will not be available after 1980. Authorities already have assigned a piece of ground for the construction, in the old town area. The building will be erected in accordance with the architectural style of its monuments and historical landmarks. — (EBPS)

Staff Changes

William Gullick has accepted the pastorate of Concord Church, Tippah County, and begins his pastorate by preaching the church's revival this week, April 11-15. A Blue Mountain College graduate, he moved from Cornersville at Potts Camp.

Kreole Avenue, Jackson County, has called Bud Cates as pastor. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute and of Mobile College. He has been active in associational work in which he has held a number of leadership positions. His former pastorate was Lakeview, Miami, FL.

Robert Winston (Bob) Rowell has begun his ministry at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, as minister of education and administrator. He and his wife Delores and son Mark came from North Jacksonville Church in Jacksonville, Fla., where he had been minister of education since 1977. Prior to serving in Jacksonville, he was director of the Brotherhood Department for the Florida Baptist Convention.

Rowell is a native of Branchville, S. C. He was licensed to the gospel ministry by Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., in 1973 and ordained by North Jacksonville Church, Jan. 8, 1978. His education includes Associate of Arts with Honor, North Greenville Junior College, Tigerville, S. C.; Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, Furman University, Greenville, S. C.; Master of Religious Education, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and Doctor of Education, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

The Colonial Heights pastor is Len Turner.

Ronald E. Bishop is the new pastor of Dublin Church, Jeff Davis Association. He succeeds L. C. Anthony, who is now in the Vicksburg area. Bishop, a graduate of William Carey College, plans to enter the seminary later. He is a native of Moselle and is married to the former Deborah Wade of Ellisville.

Danny Von Kanel has been called to the Parkway Church of Pascagoula as minister of music and youth. He goes with his wife Beverly and seven month old son Allen, from First Church of Florala, Ala.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Von Kanel of Pascagoula. He is one of three sons in full time music and youth work. The oldest brother Michael Von Kanel serves Cinco Baptist Church in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. Randy Von Kanel is now at Grand Caymen, Caymen Islands, as a missionary journey for two years.

Danny is a 1977 graduate of William Carey College and holds a Bachelor of Church Music degree. His wife, is also a native of Pascagoula. She is the daughter of Willie R. Allen.

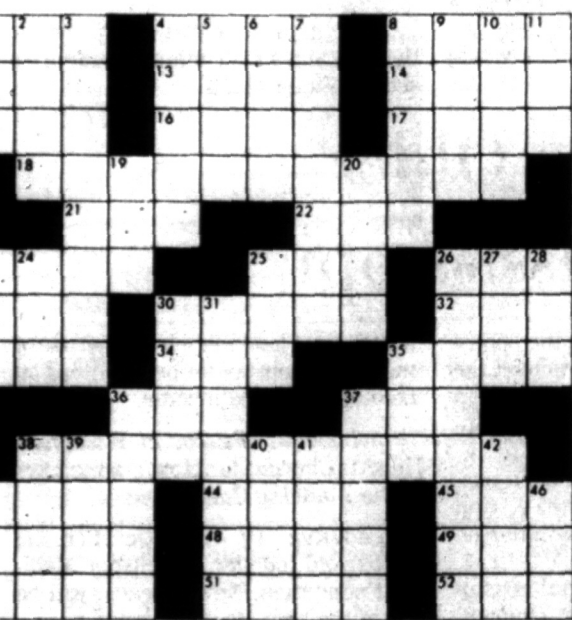
Kenna Byrd is pastor at Parkway Church.

Nelson J. Crozier has accepted the call of Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, and assumed the duties of pastor March 18. He has pastored in Scott, Warren, Madison and Marion Counties. He moved to Fellowship from Zion Church, Polkville.

First Church, Summit has called Jeff Mask as minister to youth. He goes there from New Orleans Seminary. He has served First Church of Oxford and Sardis. Undergraduate work was done at the University of Mississippi. The pastor of Summit is Dennis Johnsey.

Robert Haney is the new associate pastor at Greenfield Church, Greenville, where Frank Bishop is pastor. Haney previously was pastor of Southside, Benoit.

Bible Puzzle



- 44 Nimbus
45 Electric, for one
47 Tower (Gen. 35:21)
48 Celtic group
49 Black or Yellow
50 Depend
51 "Citizen —"
52 Some citizens: abbr.

DOWN

- 1 Greek letter
2 "they — not" (Luke 12)
3 "— are confounded" (Jer. 50)
4 Country (Rom. 15:24)
5 Grain
6 Amalekite king (1 Sam. 15:8)
7 "neither — of churches" (Acts 19)
8 "— the friends" (3 John)
9 Mollen rock
10 Jeune
11 State: abbr.
12 Large cistern
20 Rose
23 Herb (Luke 11:42)
24 Poet's word
25 Curve
26 The Lord (2 Sam. 22:2)
27 Hall
28 Prize marble
29 Summon
31 Remove from a pile
35 Half of a boner
36 "houses of —" (Amos 3)
37 Tree
38 Ore vein
39 Man (Gen. 10:28)
40 Hoop or skirt
41 Father of the Eranites (Num. 26:36)
42 Bambi; for one
43 Irish sea god
46 — Vegas

ACROSS

- 1 Old English letter: var.
4 Cicatrix
8 "my tongue was —" (Acts 2)
12 Foot part (Lev. 8:23)
13 Comic strip character
14 "It is a — thing" (Dan. 2)
15 "that beareth the —" (1 Cor. 9)
16 Semite
17 "Speak not — one of another" (Jas. 4)
18 "I am the —" (John 6)
21 Biblical tribe
22 Consume
23 It had none (Mark 4:6)
25 Made of shittim wood (Ex. 25:10)
26 Suet
29 Man (Exra 10:34)
30 "bless, and — not" (Rom. 12)
32 Eggs
33 Bitter vetch
34 Company abbr.
35 Impend
36 Possessive pronoun
37 "The fining — is for silver" (Prov. 17)
38 "thou shalt — thy God" (Mark 12)
43 Timber wolf

CRYPTOVERSE

JX DENXDJ DXJ ZRXX RV DXRA

VYZV QAEEDRVXXX

Today's Cryptoverse clue: Z equals W

(Answers on Page 7)

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service

service¹ (sur'vis) n. [ME. *service* <OFr. <L. *servitium* <servus, a slave: see SERF] 1. the serving of God, as through good works, prayer, etc. 2. a) public worship b) any religious ceremony (the marriage service) c) a musical setting for a religious service

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Greenville Chinese Dedicate Chapel



LEFT TO RIGHT: TED SHEPHERD, Minister of Missions, First Church, Greenville, C. W. SIDNEY, Secretary/Treasurer, Chinese Mission; RICHARD ALFORD, Consultant, Language Missions, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; GEORGE ROGERS, Chairman, Missions Committee, First Church; ROBERT TAYLOR, Chairman of Deacons, First Church; ED PANG, Superintendent, Chinese Mission; JAMES HEFLIN, pastor, First Church, Greenville.

The chapel of the Chinese Mission of First Church, Greenville, was dedicated in a Sunday afternoon service, March 11, according to Ted Shepherd, minister of missions of First Church and pastor of the Chinese Mission. One hundred fifty Chinese attended.

Richard Alford, consultant, Language Missions Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, delivered the dedication message through the Chinese Mission interpreter, Mrs. Trevina Chu.

James Hefflin, pastor, First, Greenville, read the scriptures and led the prayer of dedication, through in-

terpreter, Mrs. Ed Pang.

Kenneth Forbus, minister of music at First, Greenville, led the singing. Special music was provided by the Ladies and children's Choir of the Chinese Mission.

Ed Pang, superintendent of the Chinese Mission, presided and received the keys of the chapel from Robert Taylor, chairman of deacons, First Church.

Charles Rode, teacher in the Chinese Mission, led the closing prayer.

A reception was held in the Family Life Center of First Church.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. DAISY CRANFORD, music director, Chinese Mission; JAMES HEFLIN, pastor, First Church, Greenville; RICHARD ALFORD, Consultant, Language Missions. The Chinese Children's Choir, pictured, sang. The photo shows the pulpit area of the new Chinese chapel.

Baptists Respond To Hunger Crisis

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists, in an "outstanding response to world hunger needs," have now provided their foreign mission board with the opportunity to deal with the issue on a much broader scale.

John R. Cheyne, associate consultant of relief ministries, said record giving to relief ministries in 1978, plus new hunger fund utilization guidelines approved in December 1978, present the opportunity for dealing not only with crisis hunger but with chronic hunger.

Southern Baptists gave \$1.74 million for relief ministries in 1978. Of the total, \$1.55 million was designated by the donors for hunger and relief and only \$194,469 for world relief. More than \$1 million of the contributions was received during the last four months of the year following World Hunger Day and a convention-wide Convocation on World Hunger. The previous high was \$1.67 million in 1976.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had appropriated more than \$843,000 of the year's giving by the end of 1978. In the first three months of 1979 the board appropriated another \$400,000 to hunger projects and \$126,000 to relief work. The record giving has continued in early 1979 with a total of \$278,214 being received in the first two months.

The strong upsurge in world hunger giving in recent months, resulting in a current balance of about \$1.4 million in this fund, has allowed the board to move ahead with some major projects which previously were ruled out because of cost.

Among these are several dams for irrigation of wide areas of chronic drought such as in Upper Volta and parts of Brazil. Several of these projects could conceivably involve more than a half million dollars each.

Other hunger and relief projects planned include food production assistance, food preservation by construction of grain silos, nutritional assistance and training, children's and well-baby clinic, and family planning centers.

Even though both hunger and relief funds are administered through the relief ministries office, the two types of contributions are kept separately.

Clarke Alumni Set Retreat

Members of the classes of 1965-1966 of Clarke College, Newton, Mississippi, are planning a Retreat for June 29-30, on the college campus. The retreat will involve alumni and their immediate families.

Letters have been sent to all alumni of these years whose addresses are known. Alumni not receiving a letter and desiring more information about the retreat are asked to contact Evelyn Carpenter Williams ('66) at Clarke.

99 DeSoto GA's Attend Mission Day

Hernando GAs were hostesses for DeSoto Association Missionary Day on March 17, with 99 attending.

GAs from all over the county heard three missionary speakers: Mrs. Howard Bickers, former missionary to Africa; Mrs. Don Henderson, former missionary to the Philippines; and Marvin Fitts, missionary on furlough from Peru.

Each missionary showed mementos from and told stories about the country to which he or she has ministered.

Acel Stallings, GA director for DeSoto Association, said, "The Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunny spring day, so we were able to picnic outside and play games at lunch."

Older GAs had a chance to interview the missionaries, as an elective activity for winning the Adventure 2 Badge.

Ashland WMU Quilts For Farrow Manor

Ashland WMU members spent mornings during the Home Mission Week of Prayer quilting for Farrow Manor at Independence, a satellite of Baptist Children's Village.

The quilt project was under direction of Ruth Akin, Mission Action chairman, and her committee members, Blondie Crawford and Willard Jordan.

Myrtle Crawford, WMU director, stated, "We made good headway on the quilts, perhaps because several expert quilters heard our cry for help and came running. What a lift these ladies could give our WMU if they would join up with us!"

Another reason Mrs. Crawford gave for good progress on the quilts was that Pastor Roy Hamilton took "one giant stitch for posterity." She added that the pastor's daughter Jennifer, 5, beat him quilting, though.

Quilt tops were donated by Bardee Autry, Ruth Akin, Choppie Lee Crum, Frankie Prewitt, and Mrs. E. D. Thompson. Mrs. Jeston Bolden donated a lining.

The Week of Prayer programs were held in the afternoons, following the quiltings and lunch. Ann Harrison, Mission Support chairman, was in charge of these. The church goal of \$1100 for the Annie Armstrong Offering has been surpassed.

"Truth" Sings At NWMJC

"Truth," gospel singers and musicians, presented a performance at Northwest Mississippi Junior College on Monday, April 9, in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

Sponsored by Northwest's Baptist Student Union, the 20-member organization consists of a vocal line-up, a brass and woodwind section, and a rhythm section. According to Tommy Leach, BSU director on the Senatobia campus, the membership is chosen for a one to two-year commitment from more than 1,000 applicants.

"Truth" has recorded 15 albums of gospel music and has appeared on network television programs.

"All proceeds above expenses will go to the BSU's summer mission program," Leach said.

Revival Results

Eastside, Pearl: Perry Neal, evangelist; Howard Benton, pastor; 28 for baptism; five by letter.

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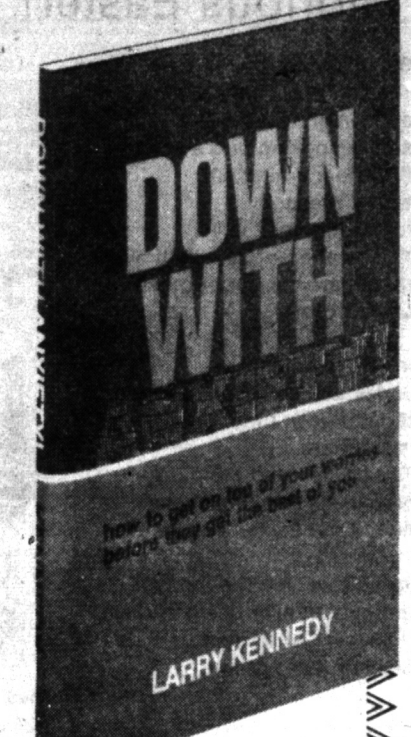
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Names In The News . . .



Perry Claxton and Mrs. Claxton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 18 in the Family Life Center of First Church, Greenville.

Claxton is pastor emeritus of the First Church, Greenville where he and his wife are members.

Gerald Claxton, Mr. and Mrs. David Riddle, and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Edwards, children of the couple, were hosts.

Guests toured the Claxton Gardens in the church court yard, named for the former pastor of the church.

A scrapbook of mementos of the couple's married life was placed on a memory table.

Approximately 500 called between the appointed hours of 2-4 p.m.

Clovis A. Brantley, 66, retired Southern Baptist home missionary and pioneer in Christian social ministries throughout the United States, died at his home March 31, from congestive heart failure. Brantley, who retired Dec. 31, 1977, after 40 years in home missions, continued to serve until his death as a specialist for the Christian social ministries department staff at the Home Mission Board. In fact, his calendar was full for the next few months. Recent illnesses, stemming in part from his age and a diabetic condition, caused cancellation of a revival scheduled to begin April 2. He left the grocery business to become a pastor in the 1930s. To pay his way through New Orleans Baptist Seminary after graduation from Stetson University in 1937, Brantley worked at the Baptist Rescue Mission in New Orleans. This work began a long career in Christian social ministries, ending with a remarkable record of beginning 118 ministries across the United States, with 108 still in operation.

While serving as superintendent of the rescue mission, Brantley developed, by 1941, a program for unmarried expectant mothers: Sellers Home and Adoption Center.

A memorial service, following cremation, was held at Columbia Drive Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., on April 2.

Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler, missionaries to Guam, have returned to the field (address: Box EW, Agana, Guam 96910). They are natives of Harpersville, Miss.

Jimmy Knight was ordained by Calvary, Waynesboro on March 4. His ordination was unusual in the fact that he was not ordained as a deacon or pastor, but as an evangelist.

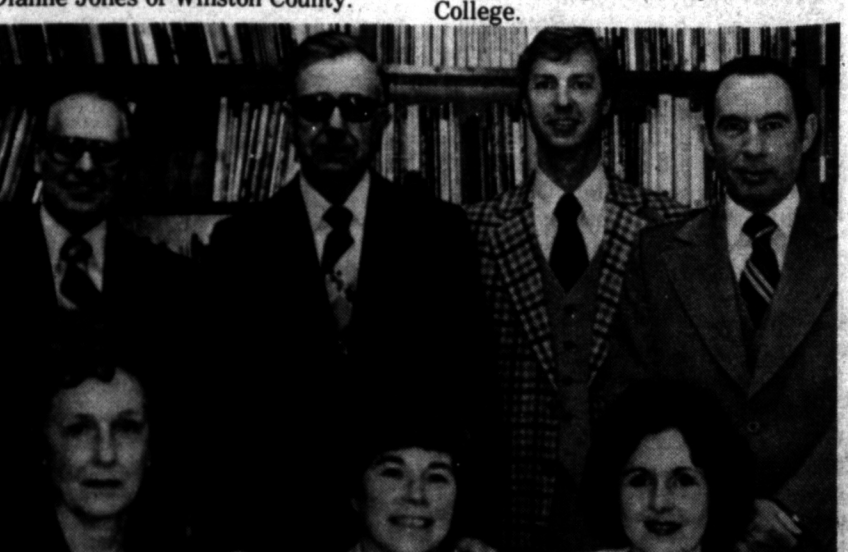
The day of the ordination was also homecoming day at Calvary. Many drove 30 or more miles to the special services.

Robert J. Sanderson, former Calvary pastor, preached the morning message. Dinner was served on the grounds.

While the ordination council questioned Knight, music evangelist David McArthur gave a concert of gospel music for those waiting in the sanctuary. The ordination service began at 2 p.m.

Alben Gaston, Calvary pastor, gave the charge to the church; Sanderson led the charge to the preacher. A Bible was presented to the candidate.

Lawrence E. Palmer is ending his eighth month at Carson Church, Jeff Davis Association, as pastor. He formerly was at Mars Hill in Winston County. He has studied at Mississippi State University and now plans to enter Mississippi Southern to earn a degree. He is married to the former Dianne Jones of Winston County.



Renovation Campaign Committee

First Baptist Church, Columbus, recently completed a building campaign to raise funds in cash and pledges toward the renovation of the sanctuary and other needed improvements. The steering committee for the campaign were: back row left to right: Atwell Andrews, special gifts; Rudy Hough, director; James Gatewood, canvass director; and Fred Jones, follow-up director. Front row left to right: Mildred Dishong, building banquet director; Freda Thomas, reports snack director; and Mrs. Larry Smith, promotion director. With the campaign almost complete, the congregation has pledged \$569,115 and should go over \$600,000 when the campaign is completed. Joe McKeever is pastor and William E. Hardy, Jr., is minister of education. John Alexander of the state stewardship staff directed the campaign.



SCRAPBOOK



Glorious Easter!

On this April day
the sun plays hide-and-seek,
sudden showers fall
and a mocking bird's song
fills the morning air
with a rhapsody
for springtime.
Yellow and purple wild flowers
punctuate the bright green
of new grass.

In the woodland
Judas trees blossom lavender
though each branch
is still bare.
The branch and the bud,
emptiness into fulfillment,
herald the Easter season.

Jesus rose, left the tomb,
triumphant over death and sin.
He lives! Christ lives,
Saviour, Lord of life!

—Eunice Barnes

Blue Violet

Such cold and barren ground,
No life could come from this;
But wait a minute —
What's this I see?

One tiny blue violet
At the base of a tree
Drawn to lift its head
By the first breath of spring.

This reminds me of the Easter Story —
From cold and barren ground
Jesus came forth to give
Eternal life to you and me.

—Ruby Singley

Query

Women at the sepulcher that day
who peered within the chilly cave
to see a Man Who was not there,
what were your thoughts when
you beheld the vacant place?
Who did you think left graveclothes
folded in such an ordered way?
Did you think you walked in a dream —
that soon you would awake and find it
was not so?
Or did you thrill with joy remembering:
"On the third day I will rise again?"

—Flechs Monroe

I Remember Now, It's Easter

What are we doing up this time of morning?
And why do I have to wear all these new clothes?
We're supposed to get to sleep late on the weekends
Ouch, these new shoes really hurt my toes.

Oh, yeah, I remember now, It's Easter.
The day we show the clothing that we bought.
But when we get back, can I go play with Tommy,
And show him what the Easter Bunny brought?

—Tim Nicholas



He Rose In Shining Triumph

I can close my eyes and see him as he lived that last sad day
Spat upon, despised, rejected, walking on Golgotha's way.

How His heart must have been breaking as they jeered and laughed to scorn
Even though he knew this hour was the reason he'd been born.

Oh, the pain he must have suffered, hanging on that cruel tree,
I will never cease to marvel that he bore all this for me.

But the shame was changed to glory on that first bright Easter day,
As He rose in shining triumph to immortalize this clay.

—Shirley Voyies

The Sin

In the quiet of a star-diamond night
It came to her
That her darkest sin was not to use the
might
Of God in her.
She had dared to pray to Him, the
great I Am —
God of love
Whose sacrifice His Son to die as a lamb
Baring His love —
Without faith that He cared for her or
heard
The prayer of her heart.
Greater than her love for Him were
her fears.
That was the sin of her heart.
The night huddled her in shame,
And she struggled for glory
To see the empty tomb. Then Jesus
came
And shared with her His Glory.

—Violet Tackett

The Power Of Easter

Let Easter fill your heart with hope
And lift your eyes to springtime
cheer; —
For Christ, our Lord, from death
arose,
And spring defies the wintered year.

Let Easter teach your grieving soul
That loved ones live beyond the
tomb,
That death is immortality —
An open gate, another room.

—Harriet Day

Morning Musings

I have a five year old "great grand"
A darling blond-haired little lad
Who came to visit for awhile
Who's been more good than he's been
bad!

This morning as the sun came up
I heard his tip-toe down the stair
And while I filled his little cup
The birds were singing everywhere.
I hadn't noticed for my mind
Was centered on material things
My grocery list I turned to find
He said, "How pretty your bird sings!"
"Do birds sing there at your new home?"
(There are few trees, I'm sure is why)
"Oh, no, I never hear them sing—
I think that they just all fly by."
And then I thought how little lives
Around us all are flying by
And each one has a song to sing
And people just as I
Are lost in some material thing
Don't catch the happy lilt of song
A little child can bring our way
And it could last the whole day long.

Valerie B. Howell

Devotional

Resurrection

By William B. Webb, Pastor, Midway, Meridian
Mark 15:42-16:8

The Grand Canyon is mind-boggling and breathtaking in its sheer bigness and beauty. Someone said, after trying to comprehend the canyon, "Something must have happened here!" It was obvious no Indian had caused that great, gaping hole by the scratching of his "pole-trailer" on which he moved his possessions with one-horse-power.

"Something must have happened here!" What else can one say as he stands before the empty tomb. He was dead and buried. But now he is alive. Risen! Something happened in that now opened tomb that only God could do.

I. THE END

A. The Saviour is Dead. Hear the contrast? Saviour — dead. The Deliverer was delivered to death. Hope was gone.

B. The Sabbath Approaches. Remember the Sabbath began on our Friday at sunset and concluded at sunset on Saturday.

C. The Burial Accomplished. Pilate could not believe he was dead. The official Roman document (in triplicate) satisfied him. He was dead. Joseph of Arimathea could have his body for burial. The "state" was glad for someone to take the body off of their hands.

He was laid in Joseph's new rock tomb. The stone was rolled in place. It was over. You know something of the emotional hurt — the casket had been closed and the grave filled.

For the Christian, the "rest of the story," here at this tomb, tells us the "rest of the story" when our loved ones who have died in Jesus was buried. For not only did the Marys watch and wait. God watched and waited. He was not through.

II. THE END—A NEW BEGINNING

A. On the Way to the Tomb. Perhaps they arrived about sunrise. They wondered about the stone. It was already moved — moved so they could get in, not in order for him to get out. God is the great problem solver.

B. In the Tomb. An angel had a word of assurance — "Be not afraid," a word of victory — "He was crucified: He is risen," and a word of command — "Go tell."

C. From the Tomb to the World. They went and they told. Others went and they told. We have heard the Good News, and we must go and tell.

Conclusion: Jewish law did not allow the testimony of women. God trusted them. They became the first witnesses of the resurrection. They saw with their eyes in bright sunlight. They saw with the eyes of their hearts. What they saw they had to tell. "He is risen!" Share with your world the fact of the resurrection. "He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid him. Go. Tell."

Many Churches Provide Inadequate Retirement

DALLAS (BP) — Although overall participation in Annuity Board programs continues to grow, many churches and agencies in the Southern Baptist Convention still provide either inadequate or no retirement planning for their ministers or employees, an SBC Annuity Board spokesman said.

Darold H. Morgan, board president, says the board continues to recommend that churches and agencies enroll their ministers or employees in a plan on the basis of contributions equaling at least 10 percent of the employee's total compensation if they want to provide an adequate retirement.

About 22,000 Southern Baptist churches out of 35,404 are now providing protection for their ministers or employees through the Southern Baptist Retirement Programs, he said.

Statistics also show that 21,989 churches send contributions to the board for their ministers or employees.

The board reports about 200 Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions have some 26,000 employees in board-administered plans.

New Delhi (RNS) — Indian Christians have taken to the streets to protest against a parliamentary bill relating to religious conversions, which the Christians say would discriminate against minority religions in India. The controversial "Freedom of Religion" bill now before the federal legislature, would outlaw conversions to a faith effected by "force, fraud, inducement, or deceit."

Uniform Lesson

Victory Through Our Lord

By Larry Kennedy
First, Laurel
I Cor. 15:1-29

Thomas D. Lea tells of the five-year-old boy who was gazing intently at the three crosses on the church lawn. His father asked, "Do you know what those crosses stand for?" The little fellow told with great zeal the wonderful story of Jesus. He concluded by relating the resurrection and said, "One day someone moved the rock away, and Jesus came out."

His father asked, "Do you know who moved the rock?"

"Sure," said the child, "the bionic man."

The little boy was close to the truth. The Bible tells us that it was the "bionic" angel who rolled back the stone to reveal to the world that Jesus was alive. Christ had promised that he would be victorious over death, and the angel was God's messenger declaring the truth of that promise. Because he was victorious over death, we shall also be victorious with him. This is the great truth that Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15.

I. Resurrection Reported

Paul makes it very clear that the resurrection of Christ was not a resurrection of "influence." His resurrection was a bodily resurrection confirmed by many witnesses. With great joy, the apostle contended that "He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now..." (1 Cor. 15:6). Paul reminds us that Christ also appeared to him as one "untimely born." This expression was usually used as a term of abuse. Paul probably means that his life had a bad beginning. He had persecuted Christians; however, the living Christ had saved him. This gives all of us hope. We may have had a bad beginning; however, the resurrected Christ lives to change us just as he changed Paul.

The people gathered together for worship. Various persons gave their testimonies, and then one old woman shouted, "I know that my Redeemer lives, for he lives in my soul — glory hallelujah." For a few moments there was silence. Then a college professor stood and said, "This dear sister has spoken the final word about the mean-

ing of life... I can only repeat her words: I know that my Redeemer lives — glory hallelujah."

II. Resurrection Refuted

In the Corinthian Church some people were trying to refute the reality of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12). In denying the resurrection one of several arguments was probably used: the women in their hysteria had gone to the wrong tomb; Jesus had not died but simply fainted; thieves had stolen the body; the disciples had removed the body; the Jewish authorities had hidden the body of Christ from the disciples. Paul's response to these denials was simply, "If we have hope in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19).

The greatest argument Paul had concerning the resurrection was his own personal life. If the resurrection of Christ were a myth, why had Paul sacrificed everything to be a follower of Christ? Would Paul put his life into the jaws of death for a myth? Of course Paul was willing to risk all for Christ because he knew the Lord was alive. In his own words, "...He appeared to me also" (1 Cor. 15:8).

III. Resurrection Revealed

With the assurance of the living Christ in his soul, Paul contended that because of the resurrection Christ "must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death" (1 Cor. 15:25-26). While riding a plane, a preacher listened to the various conversations of those around him. Most

of the discussion concerned the horrible conditions of the world and the awesome potential of nuclear war. Everyone involved in the conversation could only visualize a holocaust of unbelievable magnitude. Unable to restrain himself any longer, the preacher asked, "What does the prospect of a nuclear war hold for the Christian?" Before anyone could respond, he added, "It means an express trip to glory, with all expenses paid, and no lingering illness."

Professor David Roberts was an outstanding Christian leader at Union Seminary. For years he struggled with a dreaded disease which eventually took his life. A next-door neighbor's child had difficulty accepting his death. Her parents went to great lengths to explain the hope that a Christian has because of the resurrection of Christ. The discussion proved very helpful and with a smile the child said, "Oh, then professor Roberts is still real."

Because of the resurrection of Christ there is hope for all of us. There is a life beyond the grave. Beyond death, people are still "real." He was old and dying. In those last moments in his semi-consciousness state, he could be heard quoting portions of the Scripture. Listening to his every word, his wife said, "He sounds as though he is looking forward to a trip." Paul said, "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Cor. 15:20). Brethren, look up — the best is yet to come.

Mrs. Edith Morgan Dies Was Organist For 52 Years

"It is with fondest memories that the members of Duncan Baptist Church, Duncan, Mississippi, will remember Mrs. Edith Nettles Morgan," states Mrs. M. D. Dunn, WMU director.

Mrs. Morgan died at North West Regional Medical Center, Clarksdale, on Wednesday, March 28, after a brief illness. She had served as organist of Duncan Church for 52 years.

"She will long be remembered for her undying faithfulness," Mrs. Dunn adds. "Being one who loved the Lord, she spent many hours each week perfecting the gift God gave her. Our deepest appreciation is extended for a job well done."

Mrs. Morgan was present, unless providentially hindered, at every church service, Sunday School, Training Union, prayer meeting, and WMU meeting to play for services if needed. Her life was planned around the church worship services.

Life and Work Lesson

The Resurrection In Christian Experience

By Joe McKeever

First, Columbus

I asked the two disciples what they believed about Jesus' resurrection. As followers of the Guru Maharaj Ji they claimed that God had at various times been on earth incarnate as Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, and now the young guru.

"So how about the resurrection?" I asked. "It seems to me that if Jesus came back from the grave he's in a class all by himself."

Their answer was the classic ostrich-stance. "We don't believe," they said, "that anything which occurred 2,000 years ago has any possible meaning to us today."

Well, that's one way of interpreting the resurrection. Most people who are acquainted with the evidence for Christ's return from the grave, however, claim that it has tremendous implications for modern man.

That's the subject of his Bible study, which draws from several familiar passages in Romans.

The Point of the Resurrection

Romans 1:4 states that Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection. That is, His identity was confirmed.

You may recall that people asked Jesus to give them a sign if He expected them to believe in Him. They wanted to be so overwhelmed by evidence that no faith would be needed. But He refused.

"One sign will be given you," Jesus would then add, "the sign of the prophet Jonah." In Matthew 12:40, He explained that this referred to His death, burial and resurrection. It's the sign to the unbelieving world.

Once a person considers all the evidence for the death, burial and resurrection, he may make an intelligent faith-decision and meet God. This event establishes who Jesus is, and therefore, confirms the gospel He preached.

Faith in the Resurrection

God's plan of salvation is probably stated a hundred different ways in Scripture. We're told to look and live, to open the door to Christ, to repent and have faith, and in Romans 10:9 to con-

fess and believe.

Believe what? In your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

In your heart. As opposed to believing only with your head. More than accepting evidence and facts, this means to realize and believe it in the depth of your being. You care about it. It has personal relevance to your life.

Results of the Resurrection

Two promises stand out in Romans 6:5-11 as a result of Christ's victory over death.

(1) In our resurrection, we shall be like Jesus — (verse 5). This hope shines brightly in 1 John 3 also. John speaks of our future: "When we see Him, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

What was Christ's risen body like? No longer subject to space-time limitation, glorious, eternal, yet solid and real.

(2) We shall live with Christ forever (verse 8). This too results from His victory.

This will be heaven's highest blessing — The companionship of the Saviour. We recall Jesus' promise to the dying thief, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." And Paul's firm belief that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Two other truths are given here which are ours because of the resurrection. First, we have a power to overcome sin (verses 6-7). Sin's death-grip has been broken and man has a higher potential through Christ than at any time in history.

"Resurrection power available now." The Gospel of Christ introduces a revolutionary element into the world — His indwelling presence.

We now work through Christ in our world. We erroneously speak of Christ working, loving and reigning through us. Scripture, however, puts it the other way. (See Romans 5:17, 8:37 and Philippians 4:13).

Secondly, because of the resurrection we have a Saviour who is forever alive (verses 9-10). His presence continues with us forever. He intercedes for us with The Father. What a resource!

To see how vital these resurrection-effects are to you, reverse the situation and see how life would be without them. We'd have no promises of our own after-life, no assurances of living with Christ or being like Him. We would have no power for living except our own, and no abiding Lord.

Assurances from the Resurrection

Four blessings are mentioned because of what God has done in Christ (Romans 8:31-35, 37).

(1) God will withhold no good thing from us (verse 32). He's already given us the best. He has!

(2) God has made us secure (verses 33-34). No more charges can be brought against us. No double jeopardy, a lawyer would say. We've been cleared and made innocent by the blood.

(3) God's love is ours (verse 35). Nothing can keep His love from us.

(4) God has made us conquerors and more (verse 37).

Do you recall the questions Gideon asked of God's angel? The angel had greeted him enthusiastically with, "The Lord is with thee!" And rather than take that lightly this brash young man responded,

"If He is with us, why is our country overrun by the enemy? And where are the miracles our fathers spoke about?" (Judges 6).

Ah, good questions. Gideon thought the presence of the Lord ought to make a difference. And so does God.

What sort of difference is the risen, living Christ making in your life today?

Dayton (RNS) — In a unanimous vote, members of the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) of the United Methodist Church have expressed opposition to proposals for "selective giving" which could enable congregations to withhold money from particular agencies of the Church. The GCOM said, "Any action that would make any part of World Service subject to a process of selective giving would destroy the very fabric of our connection and be a theological denial of our concept of Christian community."